The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference

New Delhi April 1993

A REPORT

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION DIVISION
Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

THE 89TH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

NEW DELHI

APRIL 1993

A REPORT

Editor

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj

Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

RESEARCH & INFORMATION DIVISION
LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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FOREWORD

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), ever since its inception in 1889, has striven to promote the cause of parliamentary democracy as also inter-parliamentary cooperation. For this purpose, it has brought together the representatives of Parliaments from the world for the objective study of political, economic, social and cultural problems of international significance. Needless to say, the biannual Conferences of the IPU provide a unique forum for parliamentarians from member-countries to share their experiences and find solutions to major global problems.

The Parliament of India and the India Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union had the privilege of hosting the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the first time in 1969. This honour was once again bestowed on India when the 89th Conference was held in New Delhi from 12 to 17 April 1993. This, in itself, is an eloquent testimony to India's abiding faith in parliamentary democracy and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Information dissemination on the activities of Parliaments and Parliamentary Organisations has been one of the major objectives of the IPU. Keeping this in view, it was felt that a comprehensive Report on the New Delhi Conference would help in reaching out to a wider audience on the activities of this historic occasion.

It is hoped that this volume will be well received by parliamentarians, academics, students of political science and all those interested in international parliamentary cooperation.

SHIVRAJ V. PATIL
Speaker
Lok Sabha

New Delhi ;
January, 1994

PREFACE

Inter-Parliamentary Union, as we see it today, has evolved over a period of years into the largest international parliamentary organization which brings together the representatives of the Parliaments of the world's sovereign States. As the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue, the IPU works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions.

Over the years, parliamentary democracy has been striking deep roots all over the world and parliamentary institutions are being looked at as a beacon of hope for the present and the future. Issues confronting mankind today are gigantic and complicated and cannot be solved by efforts of individual countries alone. We need, therefore, to pool our resources and our experiences to devise complementary plans of action, which will address not only our common problems but also peculiar individual problems. Parliamentarians, as opinion moulders can contribute substantially towards promoting commonality of views where differing perceptions persist. It is essential, therefore, that a link should exist between the various Parliaments of the world. It is in this context that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has come to play a crucial role in promoting the cause of parliamentary democracy and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The Conferences of the IPU, held twice a year provide parliamentarians with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss many a subject of parliamentary concern and also to exchange views on issues of topical and common concern to the world in general.

India had the privilege of hosting the 57th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in 1969. This rare honour was once again bestowed on India when the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was held in New Delhi from 12 to 17 April, 1993.

The Conference, inaugurated by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma on 12 April, 1993 proved to be an important landmark in advancing the ideals cherished by member-countries of IPU. The Conference was attended by a total of 795 delegates, including 488 members of Parliament and 37 delegates attending as observers.

In view of the significance of the historic occasion, it was felt that a comprehensive Report on the 89th IPU Conference may be brought out for the benefit of parliamentarians and others interested in international parliamentary cooperation. The Report highlights the varied activities of the Conference with emphasis on the proceedings and other deliberations. It also deals with a comprehensive study of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The photographs of various events included in the Report add to its informative and aesthetic value. Every effort has been made to include photographs of all the members of various Committees connected with the Conference. The photograph of each member has, however, been included at one place only even if the dignitary had been a member of different Committees of the Conference.

The preparation of a Report on the Conference of this magnitude would not have been possible without the cooperation of our colleagues in LARRDIS. We particularly express our deep appreciation for the valuable assistance extended by Shri N.K. Sapra, Joint Director, Shri Manmohan Lal, Executive Officer and Shri Jayadev Sahu, Research Assistant in its finalisation.

We sincerely hope that this Report would be found useful and informative by all parliamentarians, political thinkers, students of political science and all those who cherish the ideals held dear by the members of the Union.

New Delhi;
October, 1994

Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

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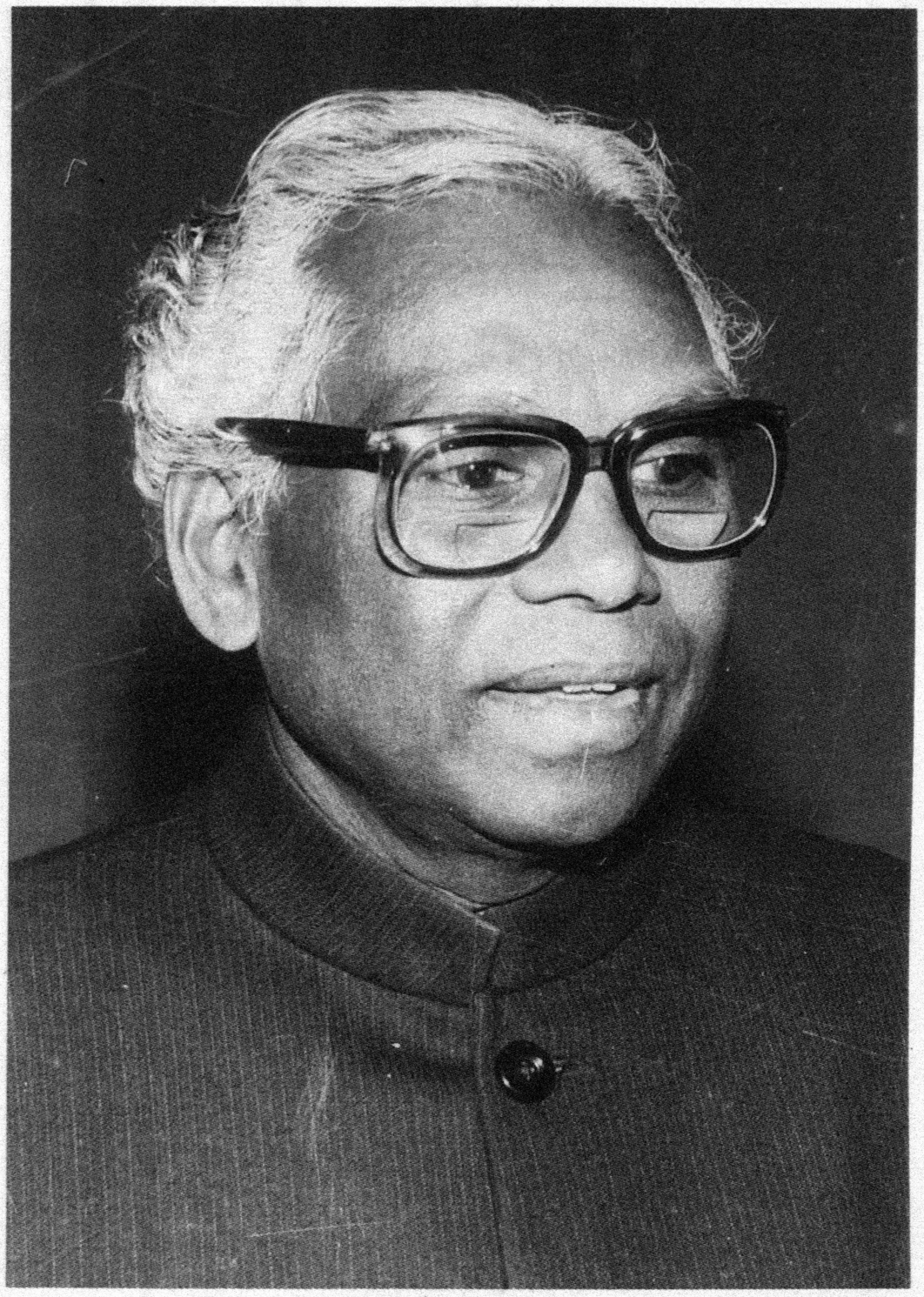
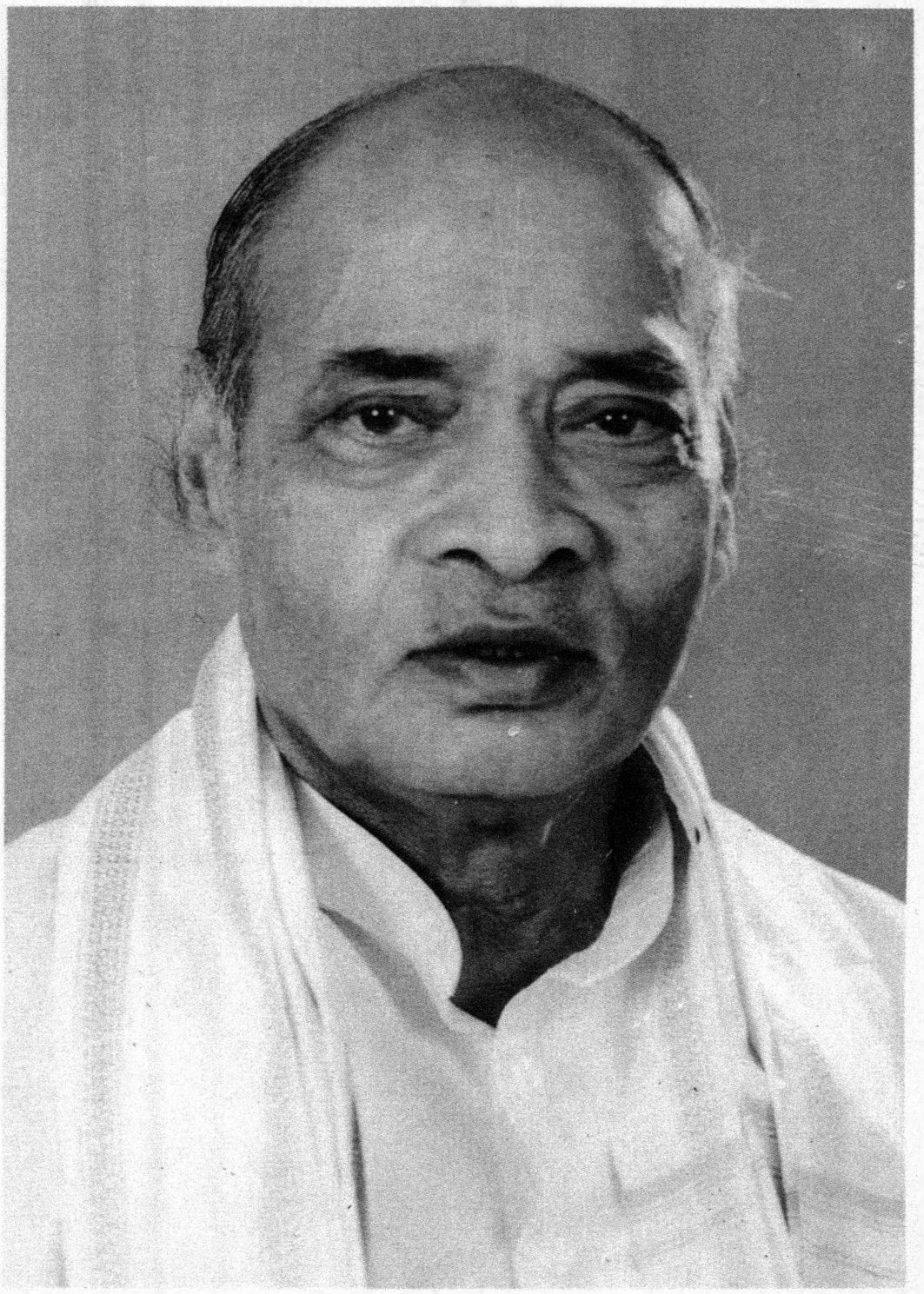
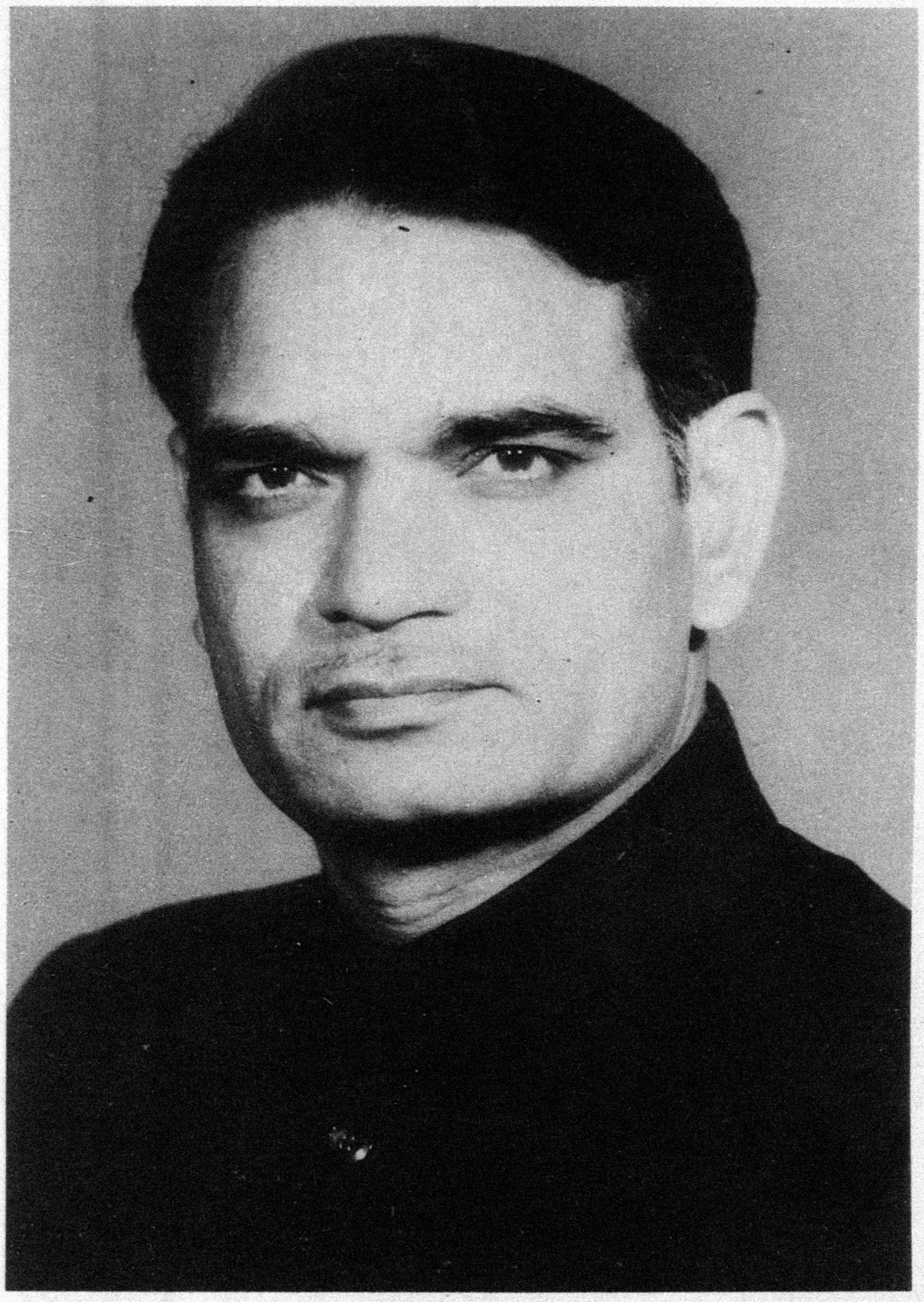
President of India



Shri K.R. Narayanan,
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha



Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao,
Prime Minister of India



Shri Shivraj V. Patil,
Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the 89th IPU Conference,
President, Executive Committee of the India Group of the IPU
and Chairman Reception Committee for the Conference

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla,
Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha and
Vice-President of Executive Committee of the India Group of the IPU

Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah,
Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha and
Vice-President of Executive Committee of the India Group of the IPU

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla,
Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources and
Leader of the Indian Delegation at the Conference

CHAPTER I

THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the first world-wide political organization to promote the concept of peace and international arbitration. Members of the Union are National Groups created by decision of Parliaments constituted in conformity with the laws of sovereign States whose population they represent and on whose territory they function. A Parliament as a whole may constitute itself as a National Group but in a minority of cases the members of the Union's Groups are enrolled on an individual basis. In each Parliament, however, not more than one National Group can be formed.

Historical Background

The origin of the IPU dates back to 1889 when the first Inter-Parliamentary Conference for international arbitration, attended by delegates from nine countries and three continents, met in Paris on the initiative of two Parliamentarians and men of peace: Sir William Randal Cremer from the United Kingdom and Mr. Frederic Passy from France.

The IPU became extremely active in the international peace movement since its inception. The movement developed rapidly and it was in the year 1892 that the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, meeting at Bern, decided to set up a central organ under the name of the Inter-Parliamentary Bureau for "International Arbitration".

After two years, in 1894 the Fifth Inter-Parliamentary Conference at the Hague adopted the statutes of the new institution under the name of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Since then, there has been no looking back for the Union which has steadily grown in strength and activities. However, the Union underwent profound changes after the Second World War, transforming itself from an association of individual parliamentarians into the international organization of Parliaments, a centre for dialogue and Parliamentary diplomacy among legislators representing every political system co-existing in the world.

Aims and Objectives

As the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue, the IPU works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. To that end, it

(a) fosters contacts, co-ordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and Parliamentarians of all countries;

(b) considers questions of common interest and expresses its views on such issues with a view to bringing about action by Parliaments and Parliamentarians;

(c) contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights, an essential factor of Parliamentary democracy and development; and

(d) contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening of their means of action.

The IPU brings together the representatives of national parliaments for the objective study of political, economic, social and cultural problems of international significance. IPU members submit to their respective Assemblies and Governments the resolutions adopted by the IPU and promote their implementation. Numerous measures of legislative, policy or technical nature have been taken all over the world as a result.

Status, Role and Achievements

Membership

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has since its inception striven to promote the cause of Parliamentary democracy as also Inter-Parliamentary cooperation. Over the years, it has evolved into the largest international organization which brings together the representatives of the Parliaments of the world's sovereign States.

At present, the Parliaments of 124 large and small countries of the world are represented in the Organization. As on 1 January 1993, 118 of the 165 Legislative Assemblies established in the world's sovereign States were represented in the IPU; the Andean Parliament being an Associate Member. The Inter-Parliamentary Council admitted at its sitting held on 12 April 1993, in New Delhi, six new Members* bringing the total number of National Parliaments affiliated to the IPU to 124. At the same sitting, the Council decided by acclamation to accept as Associate Members two international parliamentary institutions which had hitherto enjoyed observer status, namely, the Latin American Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

As on 17 April 1993, the following sovereign States of the world are represented in the IPU as members:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members

The Andean Parliament, Latin American Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe are now the Associate Members of the Union.

Statutory Organs

IPU addresses all issues of interest to the international community and promotes improvements in the working methods of Parliamentary institutions through its various organs as follows:

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference

The Conference is the principal statutory organ of the IPU. It studies international problems and makes

* The new members are : Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, the Marshall Islands, Nigeria and Slovenia as well as the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic (replacing the former Member Czechoslovakia).

recommendations representing the views of the Organization as a whole. Participating Parliaments are represented by delegations whose voting rights vary, mainly according to their State's population. In addition to topical issues of a political nature often concerning local or regional conflicts, recent Conferences — held twice a year since 1984 — have adopted resolutions on issues such as disarmament, development, health, population, environment, women's rights, human rights and humanitarian law. An average of 500 Parliamentarians participate in each session. 89 such Conferences have, over the years, been hosted by nearly 50 countries, providing the participants with opportunities to become aware of different national realities.

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in New Delhi in April 1993, participated by National Groups from 107 countries, has proved to be an important landmark in advancing the ideals cherished by member-countries of the IPU.

The Inter-Parliamentary Council

It is the principal policy-making organ of the Union. It guides and monitors the activities of the IPU. The Council's main functions are to draw up the annual programme and the Budget and to decide on the admission/ suspension of National Groups. It also convenes the conferences, fixes their agenda, institutes committees, proposes the President of the Conference and appoints the Secretary-General of the Union. The Council is composed of two representatives from each affiliated National Group. The Council elects its President for a period of three years. Its President currently is Sir Michael Marshall (UK).

The Executive Committee

Its main function is to supervise the administration of the Union and to provide advice to the Council. It also fixes the date and place of Council sessions and establishes the provisional agenda. It can also summon the Council in case of emergency. The Committee consists of twelve members belonging to different National Groups. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council is the ex-officio member and President of the Executive Committee. The term of office of members of the Executive Committee, other than the President, is four years. The Executive Committee must include at least two women.

The Committees

The Committees set up by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, assist the Conference in its work. These are currently four: (1) On Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament; (2) On Parliamentary, Juridical and Human Rights Question; (3) On Economic and Social Questions; (4) On Education, Science, Culture and Environment. All National Groups are represented on each Committee by one member and one substitute.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Union is based in Geneva and is responsible for carrying out the programme of activities of the IPU in conformity with the decisions of its statutory organs. The Sceretary-General is appointed by the Inter-Parliamentary Council for a term of four years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and is also eligible for reappointment.

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments was set up in 1938 and its statutes were adopted in 1947. The Association is a consultative organ of the Union and provides an opportunity for Secretaries of the various legislatures to co-operate in the study of the problems and experiences of parliamentary life, and to discuss possible solutions to the problems arising from time to time. The Association has its own separate organization and is partly financed from the Budget of the Union itself. Generally the Plenary Assemblies of the Association and the sessions of its Executive Committee are held at the same time and in the same city

in which the statutory Conferences of the Union take place. The Association, has its own publications *Constitutional and Parliamentary Information* (issued twice a year) and work in close collaboration with the Union which draws upon the technical expertise of the Secretaries-General whenever it finds itself confronted with complex problems of parliamentary procedure.

Activities

In addition to the meetings of its statutory organs, the IPU also organizes specialized world-wide or regional Conferences and Symposia bringing together Parliamentarians and experts for the study of specific problems of international security and cooperation, development, human rights or social affairs.

International Security and Rapproachment

East-West rapproachment

IPU's work in this field has involved the holding of seven Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on European Cooperation and Security (CSCE) in Helsinki (1973), Belgrade (1975), Vienna (1978), Brussels (1980), Budapest (1983), Bonn (1986) and finally, in Vienna (1991). Between 1973 and 1991 this programme included, in addition, regular meetings of delegates from the countries which signed the Helsinki Final Act, held during the Union's statutory sessions. A network of bilateral contacts among the Groups concerned also formed a part of the programme.

Drawing on the experience and working methods of the Inter-Parliamentary CSCE process, the IPU organized, in June 1992 in Malaga (Spain), the first Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM). The first meeting of the representatives of the parties to the CSCM process took place in Stockholm in September 1992. During the second meeting which was held in New Delhi on 14 April 1993, under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.H. Khelil (Tunisia), the participants decided to set up a Working Group comprising representatives of the Groups of France, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, to prepare for the holding of a second CSCM in 1995. This Group is to meet in Canberra and report on its work at the next meeting of representatives of the parties to the CSCM process.

Disarmament

In May 1985, the Union organized in Mexico City a Symposium on Disarmament relating to Conventional Weapons in cooperation with the United Nations. The first world-wide Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Disarmament, organized with the support of the United Nations, was held in Bonn, in May 1990. The Bonn Conference, which brought together many experts and parliamentary delegations from over 60 countries, was primarily aimed at assessing the impact of rapidly changing international relations on questions relating to disarmament and security.

In recent months, the Inter-Parliamentary Conference has not directly devoted its attention to questions of disarmament as such. This does not however, in any way mean that at a time when a number of open conflicts have broken out, Parliaments have relegated this topic to the bottom of their priorities. Proof of this is the very substantive, specific and detailed recommendations on this subject contained in the Final Document of the First Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, held in Malaga from 15 to 20 June, 1992.

It is in the first section of the Final Document relating to the political aspects of regional stability, the Conference suggested that Governments take four main measures: (i) the proclamation of principles to govern relations between the countries of the Mediterranean; (ii) the creation of a Regional Centre for Stability in the Mediterranean; (iii) the adoption of land-based confidence and security building measures; (iv) turning the Mediterranean into a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

Environment and Development

The question of preservation of the environment has long been a concern for the Union. It has been regularly included in the study of various items to which it is closely connected (North/South relations, Third World debt, human development, tourism, disarmament, etc.), and has also been the subject of specialized world-wide or regional activities.

In December 1984, the IPU organized in Nairobi, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment, followed in February 1987 by a meeting of a Committee to review the implementation of the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference. In additon, between 1974 and 1982, five meetings of parliamentarians from the Mediterranean coastal States were organized by the IPU in support of international efforts to preserve the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1989, the IPU established a standing Committee on the Environment which is responsible, *inter alia*, for examining measures taken by Parliaments and Governments to promote sustainable development and guiding the Organization's work in this field.

In 1992, the IPU's environment programme primarily focussed on the Organization's contribution to the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, June 1992). The parliamentarians included in their national delegations to that conference held a meeting in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), under IPU auspices. Previously, at the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in April 1992 in Yaounde (Cameroon), the Union's members, in a Declaration addressed to the participating States, had expressed their views on the main orientations of UNCED and the prospects it opened up. At the world-wide Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment and Development held in November 1992 in Brasilia (Brazil), they analysed the results of UNCED in the light of the Yaounde Declaration and drafted a set of recommendations known as the "Brasilia Plan of Action" on further action to be carried out within Parliaments and by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Seven Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on themes linked to development have been organized by the IPU since 1979. These were on: (i) "Population and Development", co-sponsored by the UN Population Fund, held in August 1979 in Colombo (Sri Lanka); (ii) "Population and Development in Africa", held in July 1981 in Nairobi (Kenya); (iii) "Health and Development in the South-East Asian and Western Pacific Region, jointly with WHO, held in February 1985 in Bangkok (Thailand); (iv) "Health — a basis for development in Africa", with WHO and in cooperation with the Union of African Parliaments (UAP), held in June 1988 in Brazzaville (Congo); (v) "Employment in Africa" in co-operation with ILO and UAP, held in October 1985 in Dakar (Senegal); (vi)"Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa", in cooperation with FAO and UAP held in December 1986 in Harare (Zimbabwe); (vii) "Economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region". held in January 1991 in Jomtien (Thailand).

The Inter-Parliamentary Council at its sitting held in New Delhi on 17 April 1993 endorsed the results and recommendations of the Brasilia Conference, and adopted to that effect a draft resolution which, in particular, requested the Committee on Environment to formulate proposals for the Union's future action in the fields of environment and development.

Drugs

In November 1987, the Union organised in Caracas an Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the Western Hemisphere in cooperation with the United Nations, WHO and the Latin American Parliament.

Tourism

An Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Tourism, organized jointly by the IPU and the World Tourism Organization, was held in the Hague in April 1989.

Status of Women

Women parliamentarians hold a meeting on the occasion of each statutory Conference. They examine the Conference agenda from a woman's standpoint and contribute to its work by drawing up draft resolutions on each of the items included in it.

The first Inter-Parliamentary Symposium on the Participation of Women in the Political and Parliamentary Decision-making Process was held in Geneva in November 1989, at the initiative of women Parliamentarians, and proved to be the largest international meeting ever organized on this topic. The Union also regularly conducts world studies on the participation of women in political life and on the distribution of seats between men and women in national Parliaments. An IPU survey revealed that, as on 30 June 1991, a mere 11 per cent of seats in the lower or single chambers of Parliaments around the world were held by women. The figure stood at 12.7 per cent just two years earlier.

On the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, sixty-five women Parliamentarians from 48 countries met in New Delhi in April 1993. The participants discussed at length the various aspects of the preparation of an IPU Plan of Action to remedy present imbalances in political participaiton by men and women in political life. They also exchanged views on the preparations for the IVth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995. They adopted a motion of support for draft international Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women finalised in March 1993 by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The women parliamentarians will hold their next meeting in Canberra on 12 September 1993.

Children

In November 1982, the Union organized in Yaounde in cooperation with UNICEF, a Conference on Policies, Programmes and Legislation for Children in Africa. A Workshop entitled "Rights of the child — towards peace and development in Central America" organized by the Congress of Guatemala in cooperation with UNICEF and sponsored by the IPU was held in Guatemala City in December 1988.

The IPU is also acting as sponsor for a Workshop in "Surviving Transition : Social Welfare Safety Nets for Children and Vulnerable Families" organized in March 1993 in Budapest by UNICEF and the Hungarian Parliament.

Human Rights

In 1976, the Union adopted the "Procedure for the examination and treatment of communications concerning violations of the human rights of parliamentarians" applicable to members of Parliament who are, or have been, subjected to arbitrary actions during the exercise of their mandate, whether the Parliament is sitting, in recess or has been dissolved by unconstitutional or extraordinary measures. A committee of five members, called the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is responsible for the treatment of such communications; if it does not prove possible to reach a satisfactory settlement of the case during the first phase of confidential examination and communication with the authorities of the countries concerned, the Committee submits public reports and recommendations for specific measures to the Inter-Parliamentary Council. Through contacts, communications and visits, National Groups lend support to this action. A great number of cases have been settled as a result. Since its founding, the Committee has dealt with over 750 individual situations. In more than 650 cases pertaining to parliamentarians in 50 countries which were deemed

admissible, the majority concerned were detained or imprisoned. Some died in detention while others are still detained, but the great majority is free today and several of them have once again become members of the IPU.

Research Programmes

Through its Programme for the study and promotion of Representative Institutions, the IPU gathers and disseminates information on the constitutional powers, structure and working methods of national Parliaments, on the status of their members, on electoral systems as well as on national parliamentary elections and their results. The Union also prepares and publishes comparative studies on Parliaments and electoral systems, periodicals, monographs and reference material for use by parliamentarians, academics and the public at large.

Strengthening of Parliamentary Institutions

In 1973, the IPU launched a Technical Cooperation programme through which international support and funding is mobilized for the purpose of strengthening national Parliaments of new and developing countries. The Programme benefits from the active support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bilateral donors. It offers expert advice on the structure and working methods of legislative assemblies as well as the organization of staff training courses and the provision of technical equipment and other material resources. Most recently, technical experts undertook needs assessment missions to Estonia, Latvia and the United Republic of Tanzania and several other are planned for 1993. The IPU has periodically organized international symposia for parliamentarians, senior parliamentary officials and civil servants, scholars and experts in order to study the functioning of parliamentary institutions. It also offers yearly information seminars for parliamentary staff on all aspects of IPU activities.

Relations with other International Organizations

The IPU works in close co-operation with the United Nations. A large and growing number of UN agencies and subsidiary organs are represented at senior levels in the Union's statutory Conferences. Some of such agencies have, in recent years, been invited to hold special hearings on issues of particular interest. Numerous specialized Conferences on a wide range of issues, have also been organized jointly or in co-operation with UN bodies including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, and others. Meetings, bringing together senior United Nations officials and parliamentarians attending the UN General Assembly as members of their national delegations, are held each year in New York to review major initiatives and programmes of the United Nations.

The Union is itself an active participant in different UN fora including, among others, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) — where it enjoys Category-I consultative status* and the Commission on Human Rights and its related organs.

Other Inter-Governmental Organizations

Ongoing relations are also maintained with such regional organizations as the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League.

Inter-Parliamentary Organizations

The IPU maintains working relations with associations of Parliamentarians including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**, the European Parliament**, the Union of African Parliaments, the Arab Inter-

*Over 600 non-governmental organizations have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. They are classified into three categories : Category-I organizations are those concerned with most of the Council's activities; Category-II organizations have special competence in specific fields of activity of the Council; and organizations on the Roster are those that can make an occasional contribution to the Council, its subsidiary organs or other United Nations bodies.

**Their representatives were also invited to attend the 89th IPU Conference as observers.

Parliamentary Union, the Asian and Pacific Parliamentarians Union, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization, the International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians and the Assembly of the Western European Union.

India and the IPU

When India became independent in 1947, there were immediate requests from international bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to become their members and to open Indian Branches. In response to their request, India became a member of the international organization called `Inter-Parliamentary Union' and an autonomous body called `Indian Parliamentary Group' was set up. India participated for the first time in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference held at Stockholm in 1949 and has since then been playing an effective and prominent role in the working and deliberations of the IPU. It has been contributing its mite to the movement for strengthening Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation not only by sending delegations to the annual Conference of the Union but also through a regular exchange of goodwill missions, delegations and correspondence.

India had had the opportunity of hosting the fifty-seventh Inter-Parliamentary Conference in 1969 which was a great success. It was held in New Delhi from 30 October to 7 November, 1969. Parliamentary delegations from 52 member countries of the Inter-Parliamentary Union consisting of about 600 persons attended the Conference.

It was for the first time in 1973 that an Asian, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Dr.G.S. Dhillon, was elected as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council in a keenly contested election, and Shri S.L. Shakdher, the then Secretary, Lok Sabha, became the President of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments.

India has also been playing a vital role in the activities of the Executive Committee and Inter-Parliamentary Council, the foremost governing bodies of the IPU. India has been represented on the Executive Committee many times in the past : Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, MP (1949-52); Shri D.N. Kunzru, MP (1959-62); Dr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, Speaker,Lok Sabha and later President of India (1968-70); Dr.G.S. Dhillon, Speaker, Lok Sabha (1971-72) who was also elected as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and the *ex-officio* President of the Executive Committee (1975-76), and Dr. Balram Jakhar, Speaker, Lok Sabha (1983-87).

The Indian Parliamentary Group, an autonomous body of members of Parliament directing its own affairs and having a constitution of its own, functions as the Indian National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. From the very beginning of its membership of the Union, the Indian Group has taken a considerable interest in the working of the Union. It is through the Indian Parliamentary Group that Indian Parliament exchanges delegations, goodwill missions etc. with foreign Parliaments and regularly participates in the Conferences held under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Thus, one of the main objectives of the Indian Parliamentary Group has been to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament in India and members of other Parliaments and arranging their visits to foreign countries with a view to exchanging ideas on issues of public importance.

India had the privilege of hosting the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in New Delhi in April this year. Over a thousand delegates representing more than hundred Parliaments took part in the Conference and discussed issues of topical concern. The 89th Conference itself speaks eloquently of the role India has been playing consistently in furthering the inter-parliamentary movement.

CHAPTER II

COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE

Executive Committee of the IPU

The Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union supervises the administration of the Union and provides technical advice to the Inter-Parliamentary Council. It consists of twelve members belonging to different National Groups. The President of the Council, who is the *ex-officio* member and President of the Executive Committee, holds office for 3 years. Twelve members are elected by the conference; not fewer than ten are elected from among the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Council to which they continue to belong during their mandate. The term of members is for four years. At least two of the members elected must be women. In accordance with paragraph (1) of Article 22 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, only such candidates as are proposed by the Council are eligible for election to the Executive Committee by the Conference. At least two retire in rotation each year. A retiring member is not eligible for re-election for two years and is replaced by a member belonging to another National Group. In elections to the Executive Committee, consideration is given to the contribution made to the work of the Union by the candidate and his National Group, and an endeavour is made to ensure an equitable geographical distribution.

The composition of the Executive Committee of the IPU at the 89th Conference was as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE IPU

President *ex officio*

Sir Michael Marshall
UNITED KINGDOM

Members

2. Mrs. Tati Sumiyati Darsoyo*-substitute Member of the House of Representatives
   INDONESIA
   (Leader of the Indonesian Delegation)
3. Mr. Malcolm Colston** - substitute Deputy Speaker of the Senate
   AUSTRALIA
   (Leader of the Australian Delegation)
4. Mr.Andre Fosset*** - substitute Senator
   FRANCE
   (Leader of the French Delegation)

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* Substituted Mr. M. Darusman (Indonesia)
** Substituted Mr. Mc Leay (Australia)
*** Substituted Mr. Y.Tavernier (France)

5. Mr. Vassil Gotsev, Member of the National Assembly
BULGARIA
(Leader of the Bulgarian Delegation)

6. Mr. Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, President of the National Assembly
CAMEROON
(Leader of the Cameroon Delegation)

7. Mrs. Leni Fischer, Member of the Deutscher Bundestag
GERMANY
(Leader of the German Delegation)

8. Mr. Mohamed Jalal Essaid
MOROCCO

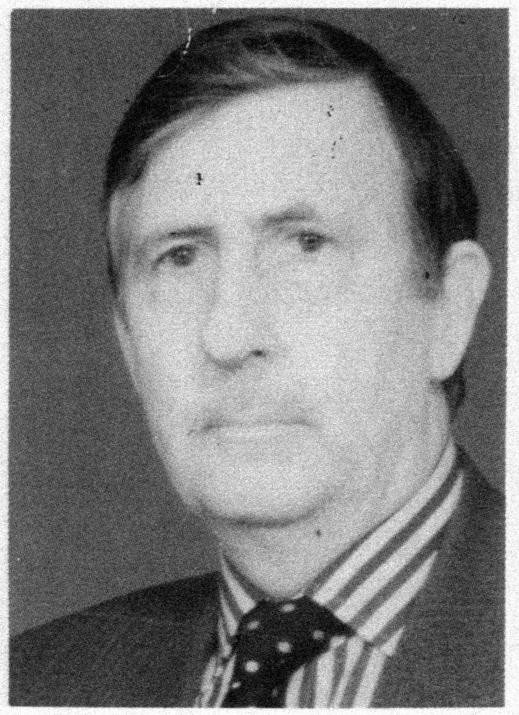
9. Mr. Jushiro Komiyama, Member of the House of Representatives
JAPAN
(Leader of the Japanese Delegation)

10. Mr. Sergio Paez Verdugo, Senator
CHILE

11. Mr. Gyorgy L.Pahh, Member of the National Assembly
HUNGARY
(Leader of the Hungarian Delegation)

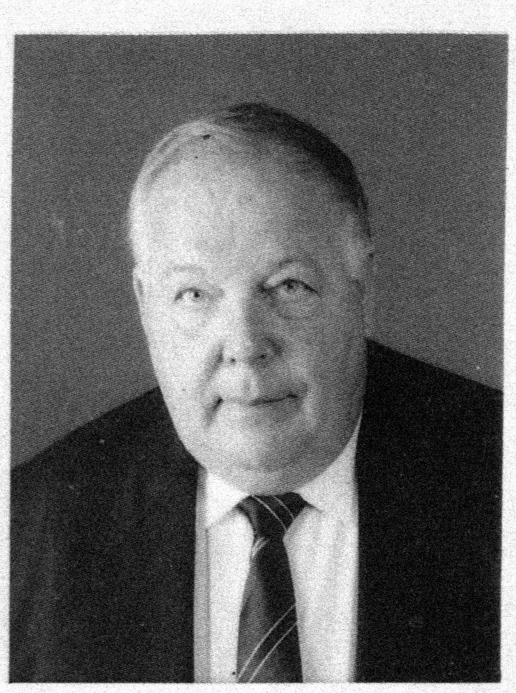
12. Mrs. Naziha Mazhoud, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Secretary of State in charge of Social Promotion, Ministry of Social Affairs
TUNISIA

13. Mrs. Haydee Castillo de Lopez-Acosta, Member of the Chamber of Deputies
VENEZUELA



Sir Michael Marshall,
Member, House of Commons,
United Kingdom

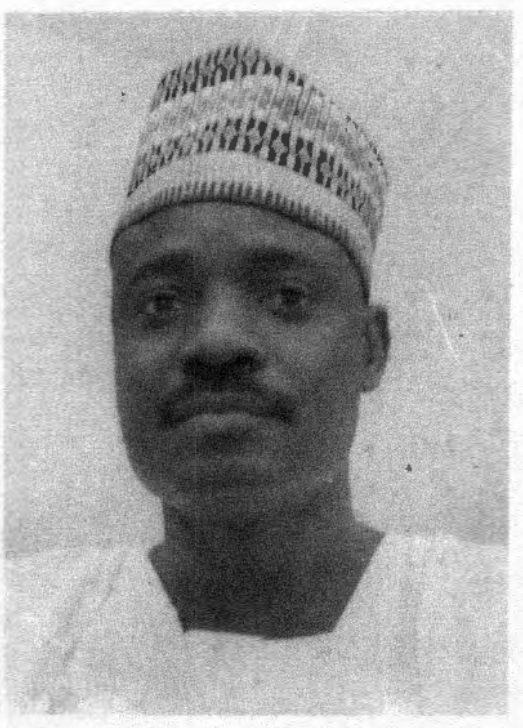
Hon. Tati Sumiyati Darsoyo,
Member, House of Representatives,
Indonesia



Hon. Malcolm Colston,
Deputy Speaker of the Senate,
Australia

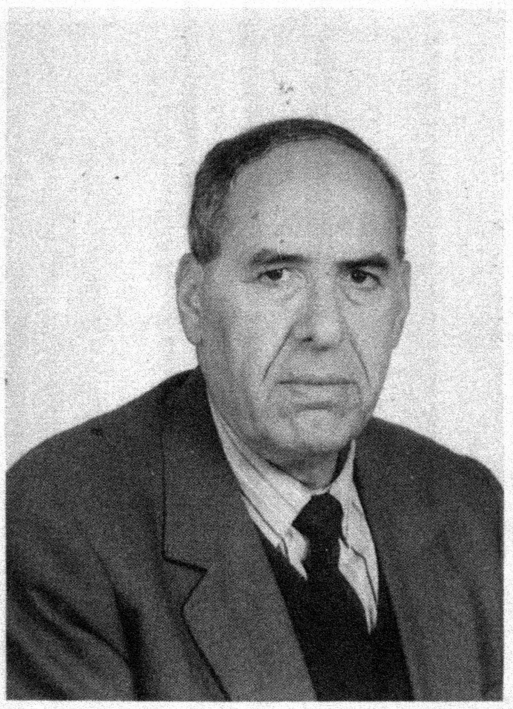
Hon. Andre Fosset,
Senator,
France

Hon. Vassil Gotsev,
Member, National Assembly,
Bulgaria



Hon. Cavaye Yeguie Djibril,
President, National Assembly,
Cameroon

Hon. Leni Fischer,
Member, Deutscher Bundestag,
Germany



Hon. Mohamed Jalal Essaid,
Morocco

Hon. Jushiro Komiyama,
Member, House of Representatives,
Japan

Hon. Sergio Paez Verdugo,
Senator,
Chile

Hon. Gyorgy L. Pahh,
Member, National Assembly,
Hungary

Hon. Naziha Mazoud,
Member, Chamber of Deputies Secretary of State in charge of Social Promotion, Ministry of Social Affairs,
Tunisia

Hon. Haydee Castillo de Lopez-Acosta,
Member, Chamber of Deputies,
Venezuela

Executive Committee of the India Group of the IPU

The Indian Parliamentary Group is an autonomous body formed in the year 1949. The aims and objects of the Indian Parliamentary Group are to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament, to study questions of public importance that are likely to come before Parliament, to arrange lectures on political, defence, economic, social and educational problems by members of Parliament and to arrange visits to foreign countries with a view to develop contacts with members of other Parliaments. The IPG functions as the National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The management and control of the affairs of the Group are vested in the Executive Committee consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and 16 members. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex-officio* President of the Group and the Executive Committee. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha are *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents of the Group. The Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting from amongst the ordinary and life members of the Group. The membership of the Indian Parliamentary Group is open to all members of Parliament and ex-Members of Parliament.

The composition of the Executive Committee of the India Group of the IPU at the 89th Conference was as follows :

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INDIA GROUP OF THE IPU

President

Shri Shivraj V. Patil,
Speaker, Lok Sabha

Vice-Presidents

2. Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla,
   Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

3. Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah,
   Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha

Treasurer

4. Shri Sharad Dighe, M.P. (Lok Sabha)

Members

5. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad (Rajya Sabha)
   Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism

6. Shri L.K. Advani, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
   Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

7. Shri Sikander Bakht, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
   Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

8. Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
   Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Electronics and Department of Ocean Development

9. Shri Rabi Ray, M.P. (Lok Sabha)

10. Shri Buta Singh, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
11. Shri P. Shiv Shanker, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
12. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
13. Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
14. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
15. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
16. Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
17. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
18. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
19. Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
20. Shri Mani Ram Bagri, ex-M.P.

Permanent Special Invitees

21. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
22. Shri Shankar Dayal Singh, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
23. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
24. Shri P. Upendra, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
25. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
26. Prof. P.G. Mavalankar, ex-M.P.
27. Shri Vasant Sathe, ex-M.P.
28. Shri Anil Shastri, ex-M.P.
29. Ch. Jagdeep Dhankar, ex-M.P.

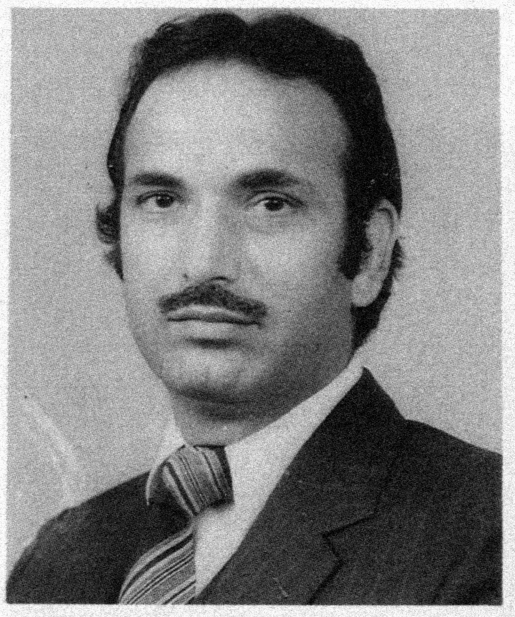
Secretary-General

30. Shri C.K. Jain,
    Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

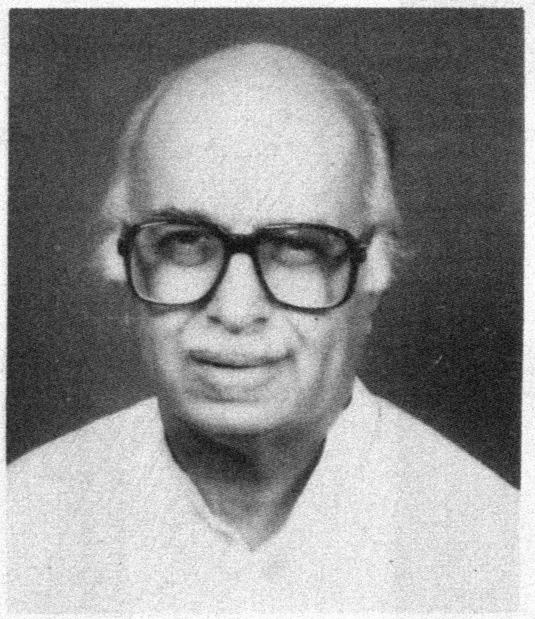
Invitees

31. Shri Sudarshan Agarwal,
    Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha
32. Shri G.L. Batra,
    Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat
33. Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj,
    Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat

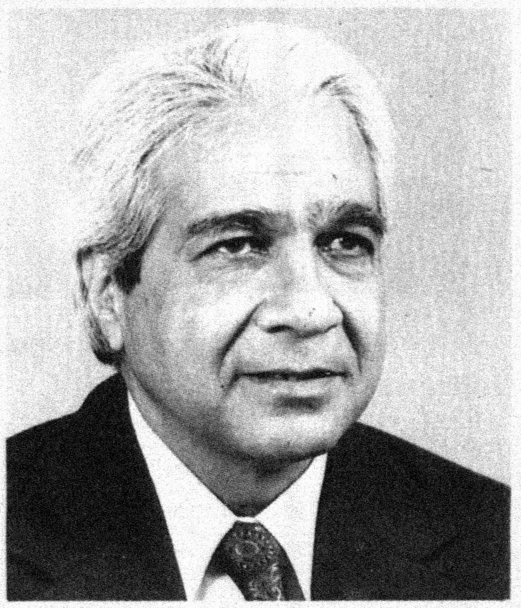
Hon. Sharad Dighe,
Treasurer of Executive Committee
of the India Group of the IPU



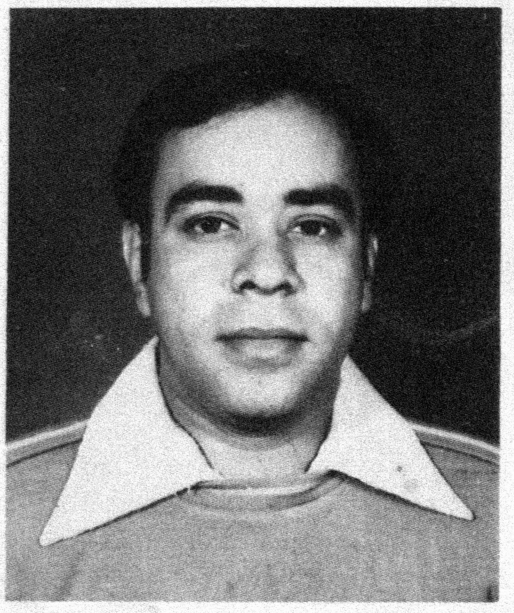
Hon. Ghulam Nabi Azad



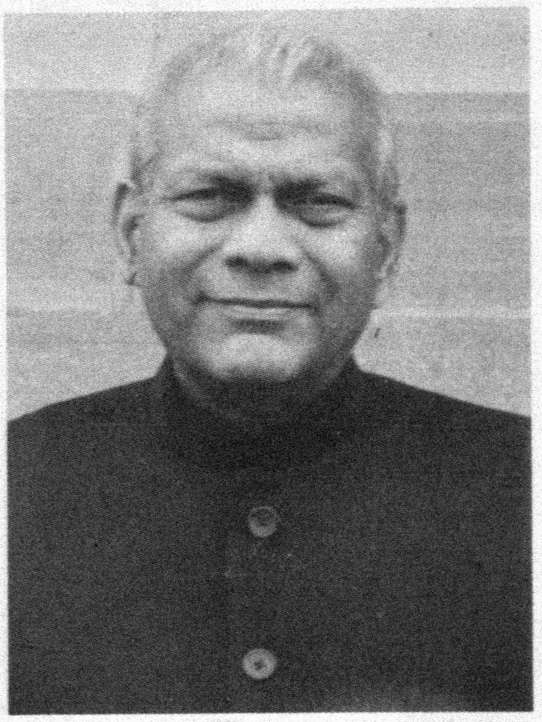
Hon. Lal K. Advani



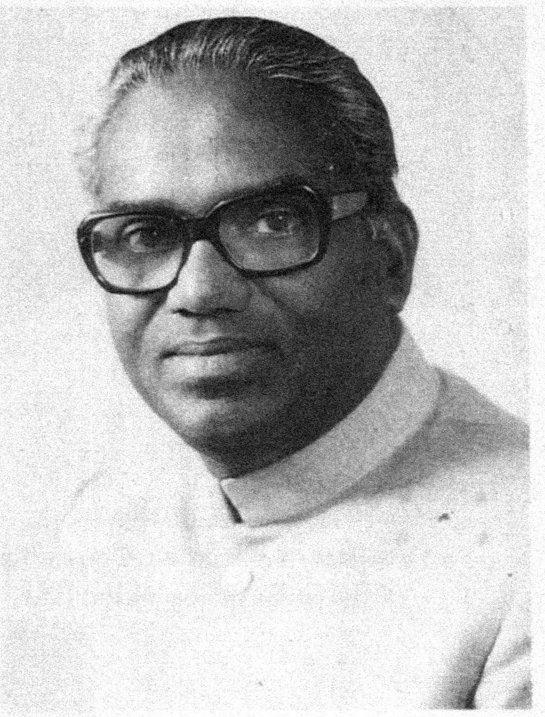
Hon. Sikander Bakht



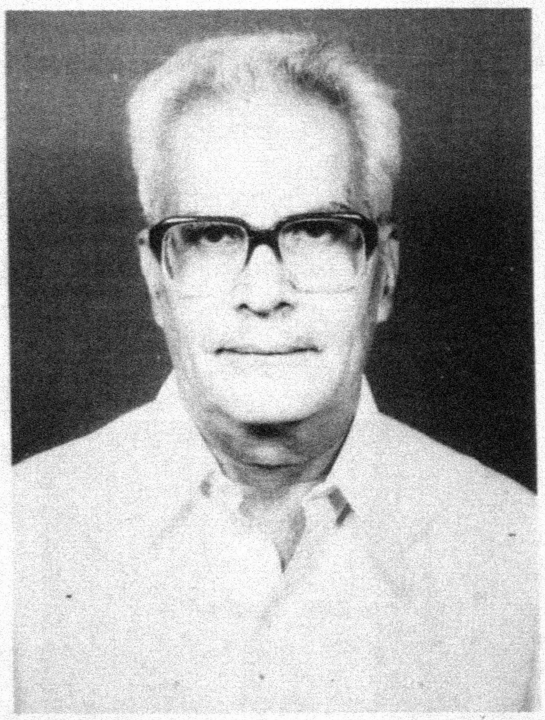
Hon. P.R. Kumaramangalam



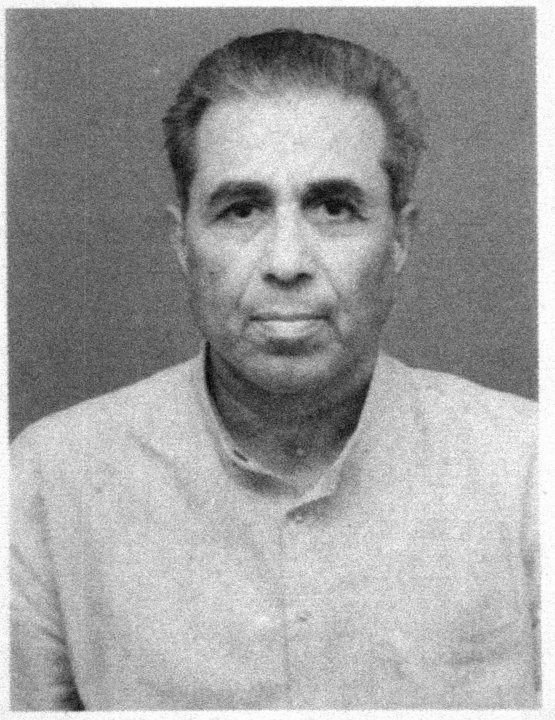
Hon. Rabi Ray



Hon. P. Shiv Shanker



Hon. Ram Niwas Mirdha



Hon. Satya Prakash Malaviya

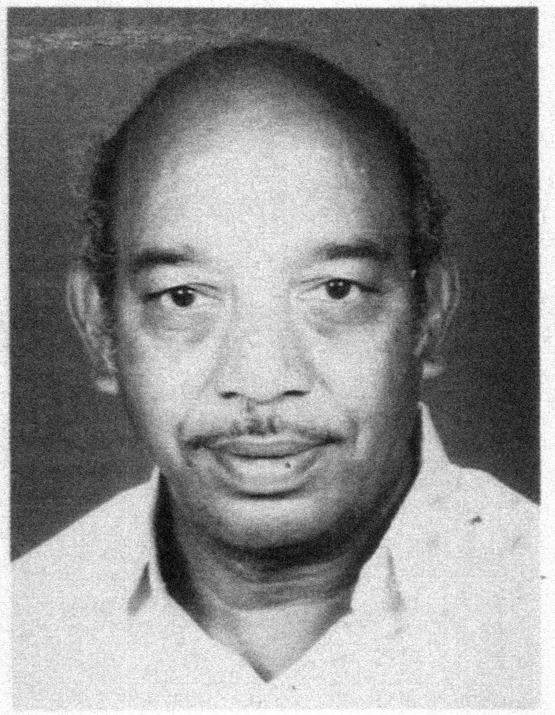
Hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar

Hon. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

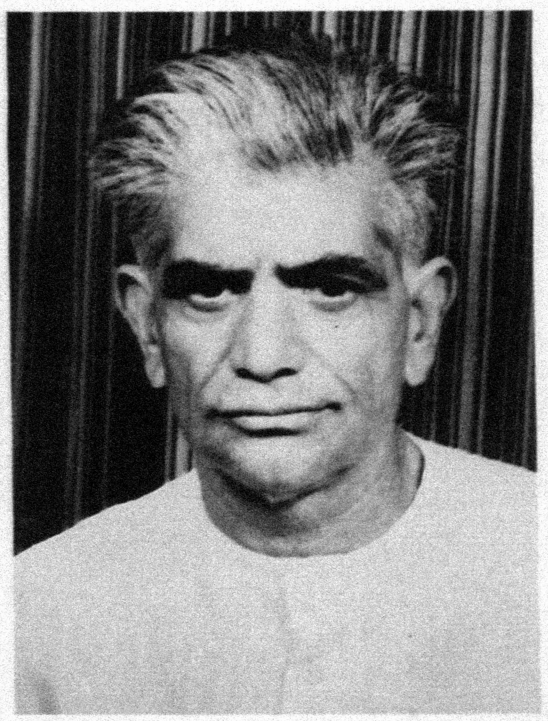
Hon. Indrajit Gupta

Hon. Somnath Chatterjee

Hon. Renuka Chowdhury



Hon. Kadambur Janarthanan



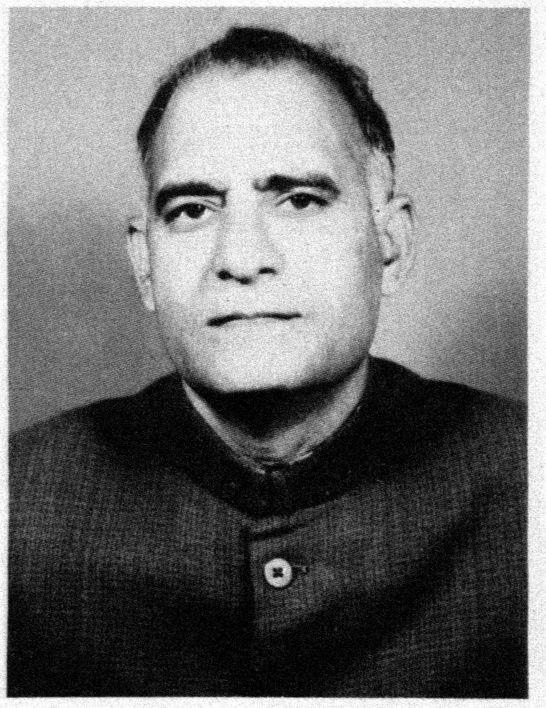
Hon. Mani Ram Bagri

Hon. Sushma Swaraj

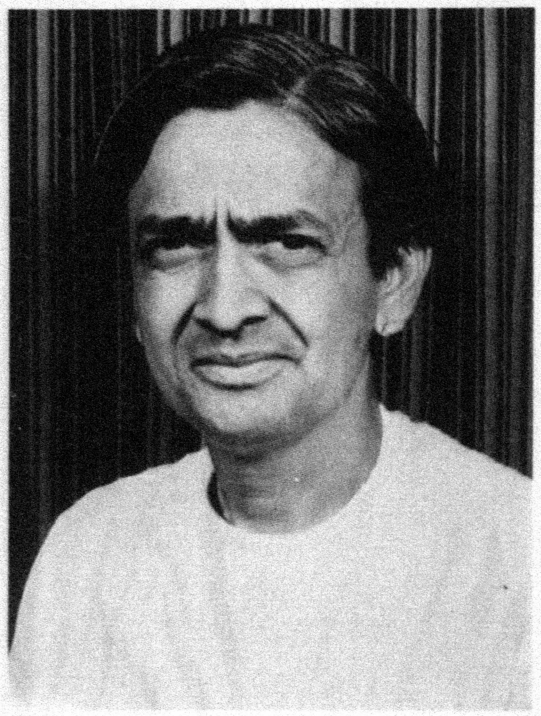
Hon. Shanker Dayal Singh

Hon. S. Jaipal Reddy

Hon. P. Upendra

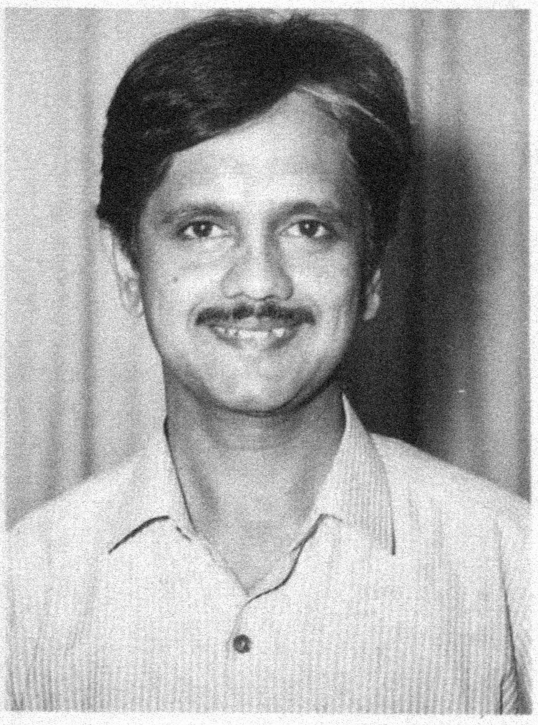


Hon. Chandrajit Yadav

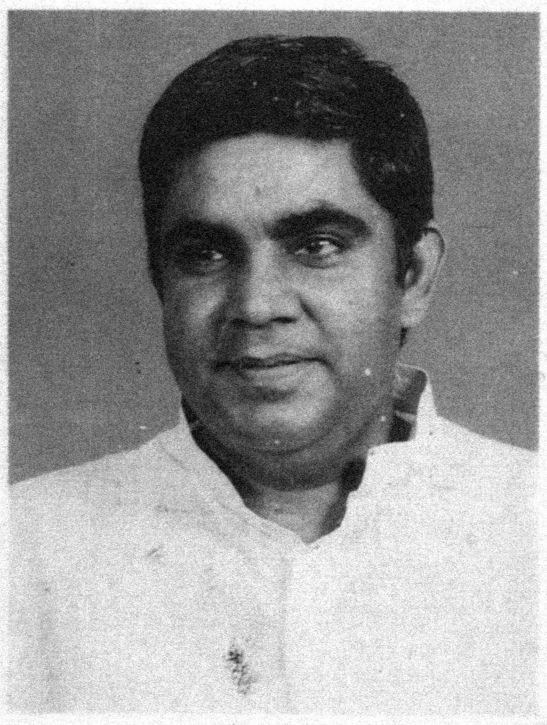


Hon. P. G. Mavalankar

Hon. Vasant Sathe



Hon. Anil Kumar Shastri

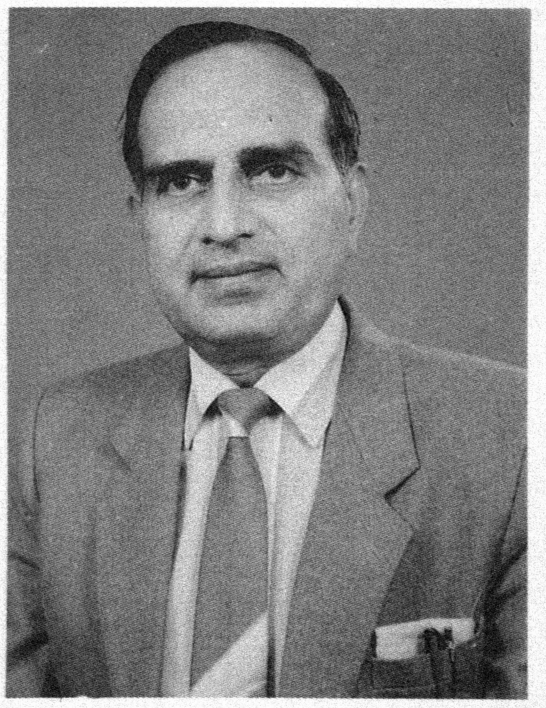


Hon. Jagdeep Dhankhar

Shri C.K. Jain,
Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

Shri Sudarshan Agarwal,
Secretary-General Rajya Sabha

Shri G.L. Batra,
Additional Secretary,
Lok Sabha Secretariat



Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj,
Additional Secretary,
Lok Sabha Secretariat

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee, assisted by the Secretary-General of the Union, is mandated to take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organisation and smooth functioning of the Conference proceedings.

Under Conference Rule 9 of the Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, the Steering Committee is composed of the President of the Conference, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and his substitute designated by the Executive Committee. The Chairmen of Committees may take part in the work of the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity.

The composition of the Steering Committee of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was as follows :

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Shri Shivraj V. Patil
Speaker, Lok Sabha (India)
(President, 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference)

2. Sir Michael Marshall
   M.P. (United Kingdom)
   (President, Inter-Parliamentary Council)

3. Mrs. Leni Fischer*
   Member of the Deutscher Bundestag (Germany)
   (Leader of the German Delegation)

4. Mr. M.A. Martinez**
   Member of the Congress of Deputies (Spain)
   (Chairman, Committee on Political Questions,
   International Security and Disarmament)

5. Mr. J. Kararuddin**
   Senator (Pakistan)
   (Chairman, Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Environment)

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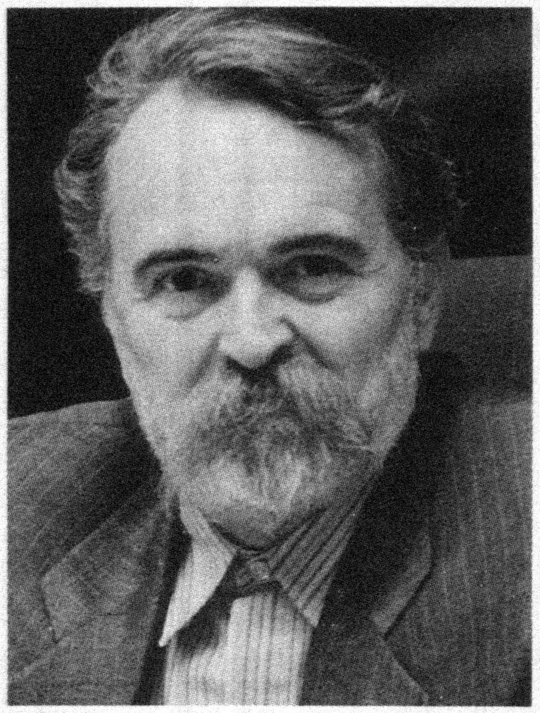
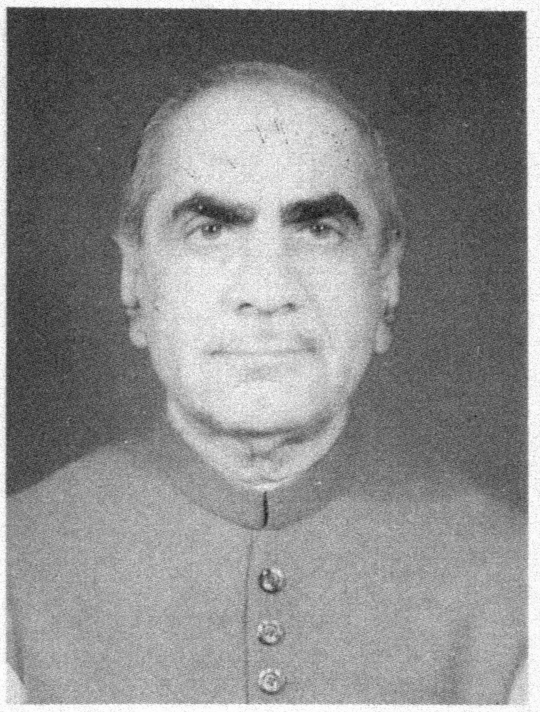
*Substitute of Sir Michael Marshall
**May take part in an advisory capacity in the work of Steering Committee



Mr. M.A. Martinez,
Member of the Congress of Deputies
(Spain) and Chairman, Committee on
Political Questions, International
Security and Disarmament



Mr. J. Kararuddin,
Senator (Pakistan) and
Chairman, Committee on Education, Science,
Culture and Environment

Reception Committee

The main task of Reception Committee for the 89th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was to receive/see off Delegates attending the Conference at the airport and at various social events.

The composition of the Reception Committee was as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Chairman

Shri Shivraj V. Patil,
Speaker, Lok Sabha

Members

Ministers

2. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad,
   Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism
3. Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj,
   Minister of State in the
   Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs
4. Shrimati Margaret Alva,
   Minister of State in the
   Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
5. Shri Rameshwar Thakur,
   Minister of State in the
   Ministry of Rural Development
   (Department of Rural Development)

Rajya Sabha

6. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, MP
7. Shri R.K. Dhawan, MP
8. Shri V. Hanumantha Rao, MP
9. Shri P. Upendra, MP
10. Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, MP
11. Shri Digvijay Singh, MP
12. Shri Shankar Dayal Singh, MP
13. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, MP
14. Shri M.M. Jacob, MP
15. Shri Sikander Bakht, MP
16. Shri Suresh Pachouri, MP
17. Shrimati Veena Verma, MP

18. Prof. M.G.K. Menon, MP
19. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, MP
20. Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya, MP

Lok Sabha

21. Smt. Girija Devi, MP
22. Shri Nitish Kumar, MP
23. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, MP
24. Shri Hari Kishore Singh, MP
25. Prof. (Smt.) Rita Verma, MP
26. Smt. Bhavna Chikhalia, MP
27. Shri Arvind Trivedi, MP
28. Prof. Prem Dhumal, MP
29. Shri K.M. Mathew, MP
30. Shri Digvijaya Singh, MP
31. Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya, MP
32. Shri Shravan Kumar Patel, MP
33. Shri Sharad Dighe, MP
34. Prof. Ram Kapse, MP
35. Shri Vilas Muttemwar, MP
36. Shri Ram Naik, MP
37. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, MP
38. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, MP
39. Shri Rabi Ray, MP
40. Shri Kamal Chaudhry, MP
41. Smt. Santosh Chowdhary, MP
42. Shri Buta Singh, MP
43. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur, MP
44. Smt. Vasundhara Raje, MP
45. Dr. Girija Vyas, MP
46. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP
47. Shri Era Anbarasu, MP
48. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, MP
49. Shri Rajvir Singh, MP
50. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai, MP

51. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav, MP
52. Prof. Malini Bhattacharya, MP
53. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, MP
54. Shri Saifuddin Choudhury, MP
55. Shri Inderjit, MP
56. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, MP
57. Dr. Debi Prosad Pal, MP
58. Shri E. Ahmed, MP
59. Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, MP
60. Shri Udaysingrao Gaikwad, MP
61. Shri Peter G. Marbaniang, MP
62. Shri Mohan Singh, MP
63. Shri Harish Zantye, MP
64. Shri Sudhir Sawant, MP
65. Shri S.B. Sidnal, MP
66. Shri Tara Singh, MP
67. Shrimati D.K. Thara Devi, MP

Invitees

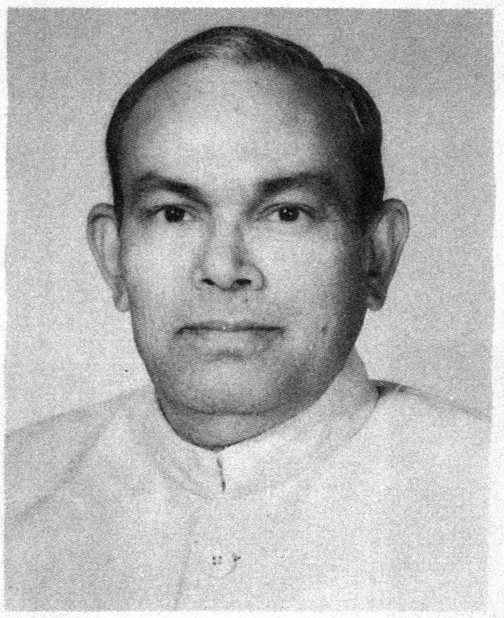
68. Shri P.C. Chako, MP
69. Shri Srikant Jena, MP
70. Shri Tara Chand Khandelwal, MP
71. Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, MP
72. Miss Saroj Khaparde, MP
73. Dr. (Smt.) K.S. Soundaram, MP
74. Shri V.M. Jadhav, MP
75. Dr. Raja Ramanna, Ex-MP

Secretary-General

76. Shri C.K. Jain,
Secretary-General, Lok Sabha

Hon. Hansraj Bhardwaj

Hon. Margaret Alva



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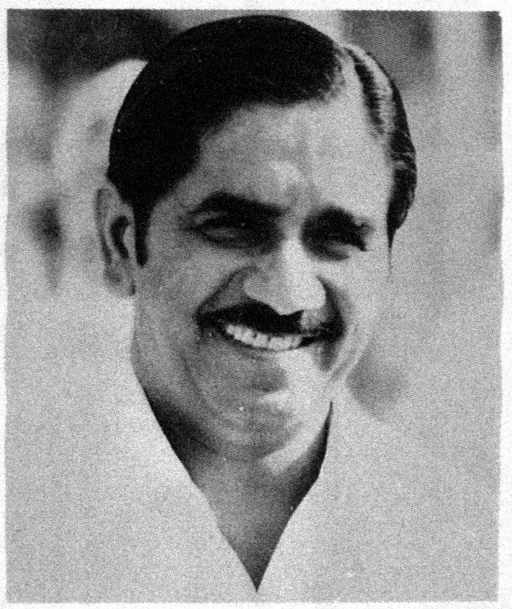
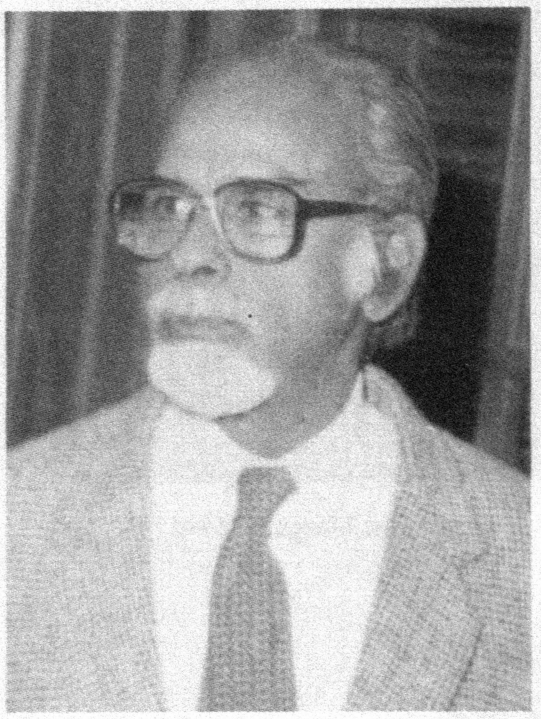


Hon. R.K. Dhawan

Hon. V. Hanumantha Rao



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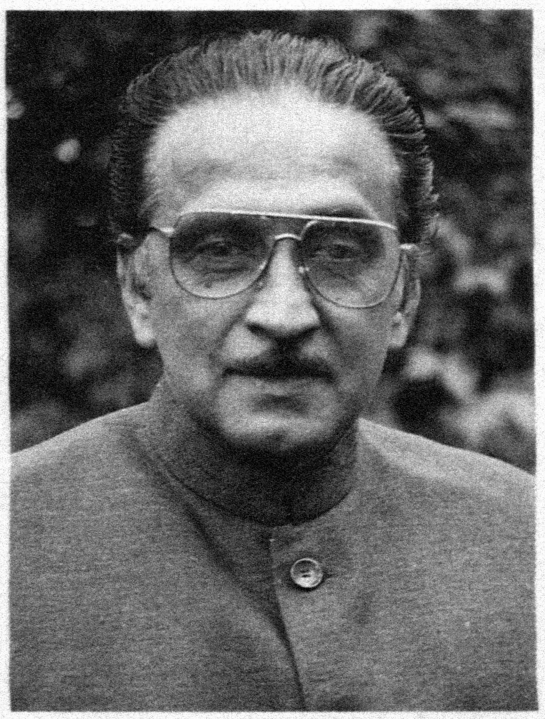
Hon. Digvijay Singh



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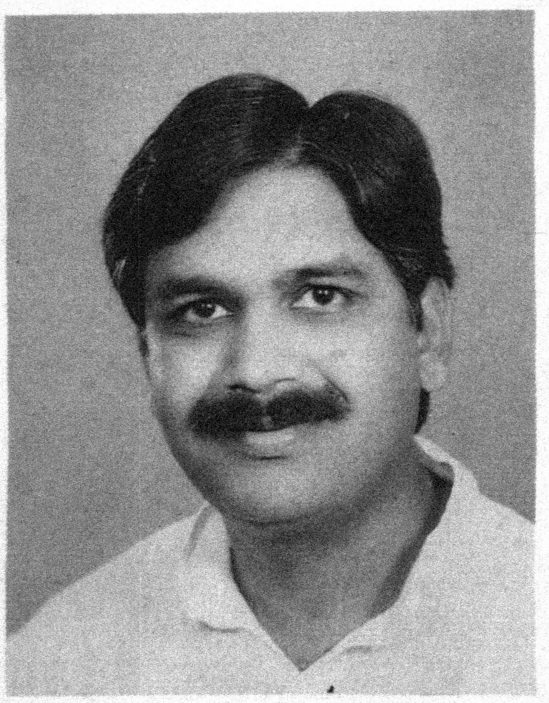


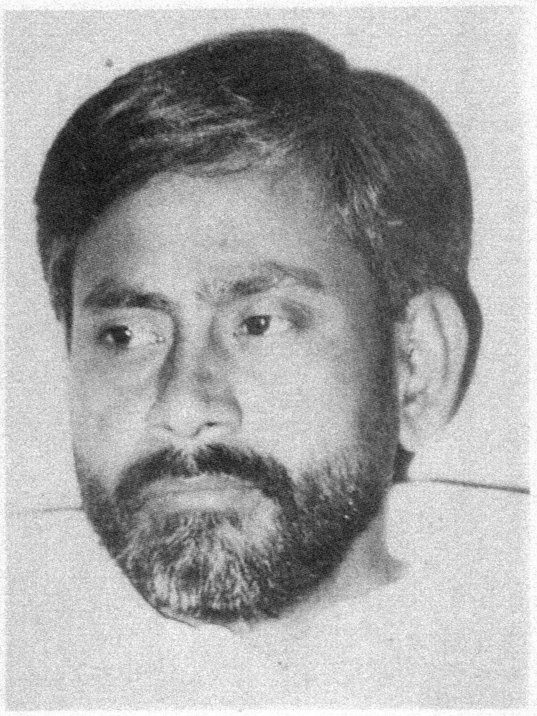
Hon. Suresh Pachouri

Hon. Veena Verma

Hon. M.G.K. Menon

Hon. Jayanthi Natarajan

Hon. Girija Devi



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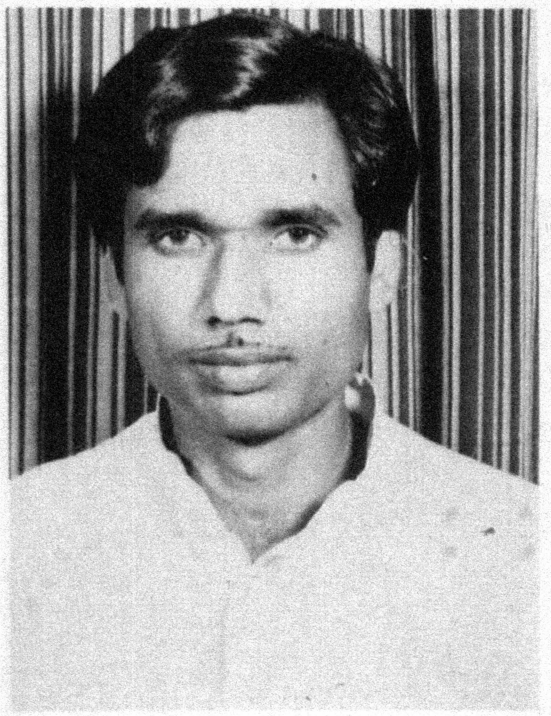

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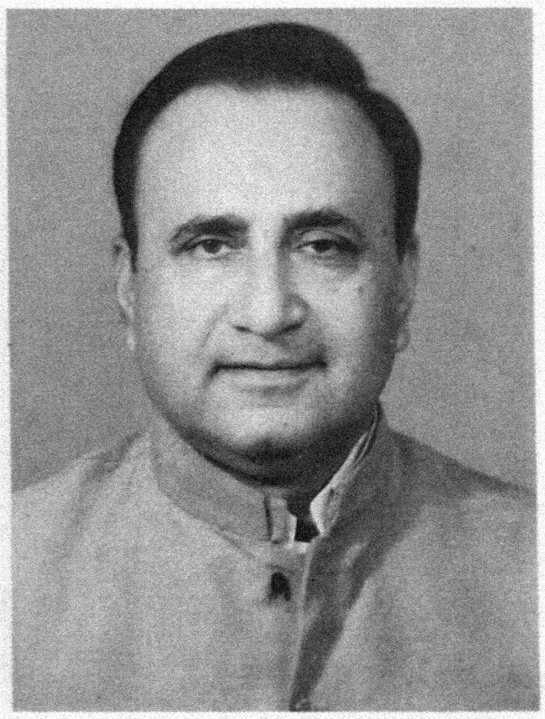
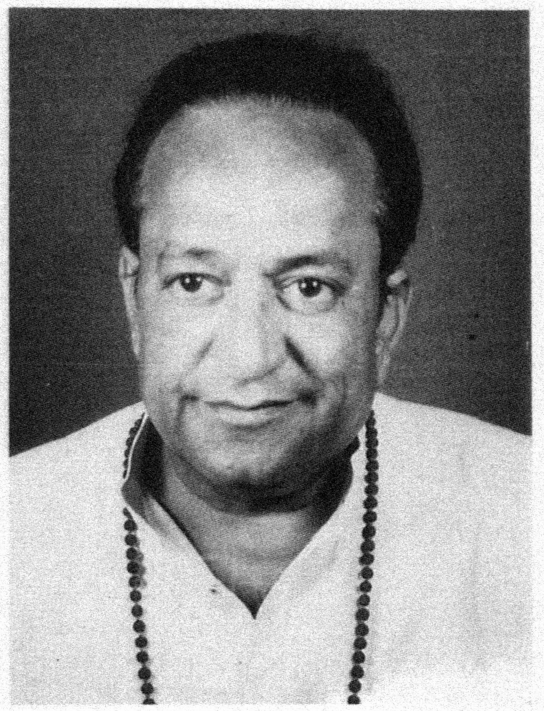


Hon. Hari Kishore Singh

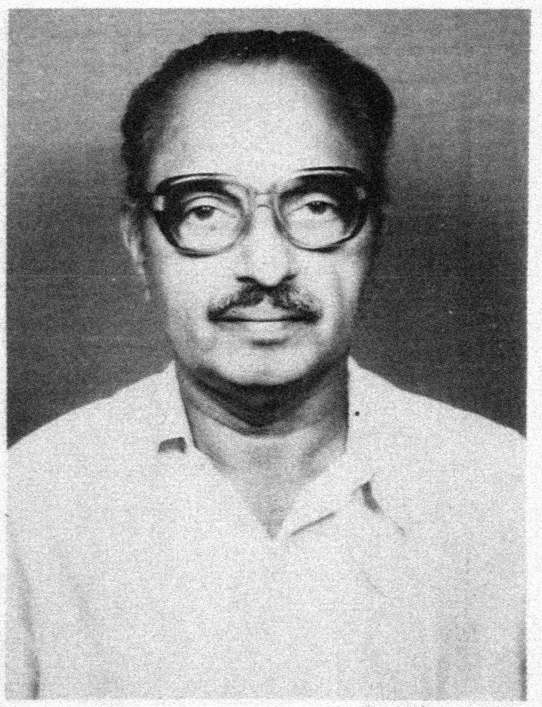
Hon. Rita Verma

Hon. Bhavnaben Chikhalia



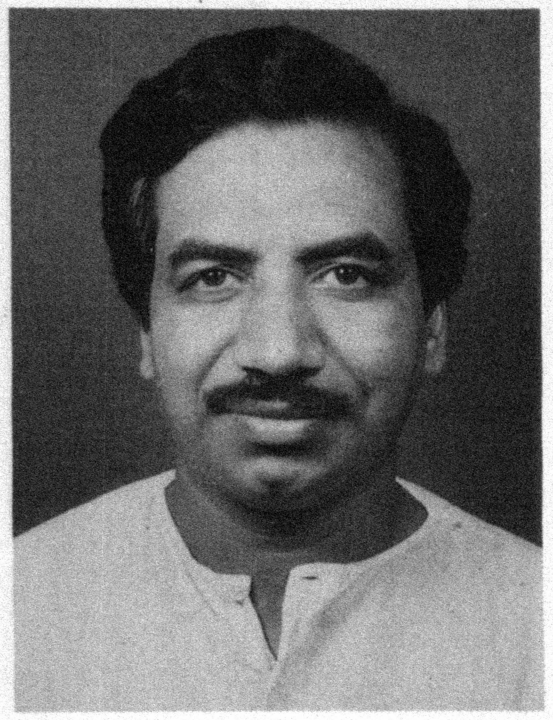
Hon. Arvind Trivedi

Hon. Prem Kumar Dhumal



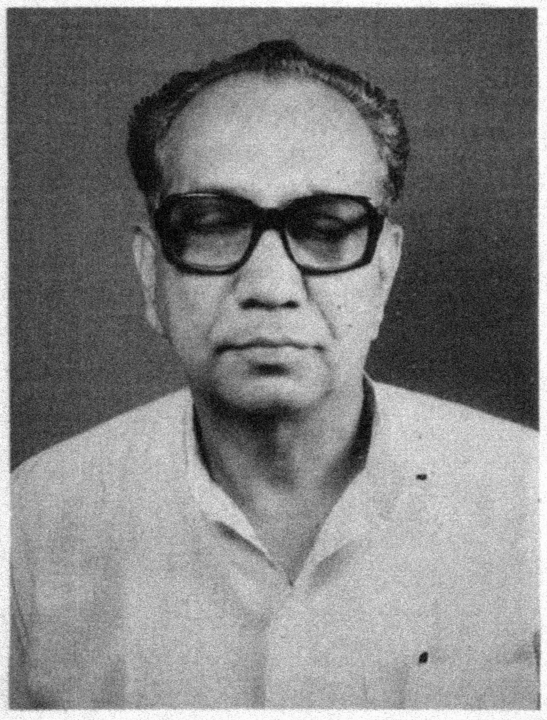
Hon. Palai K.M. Mathew

Hon. Digvijaya Singh

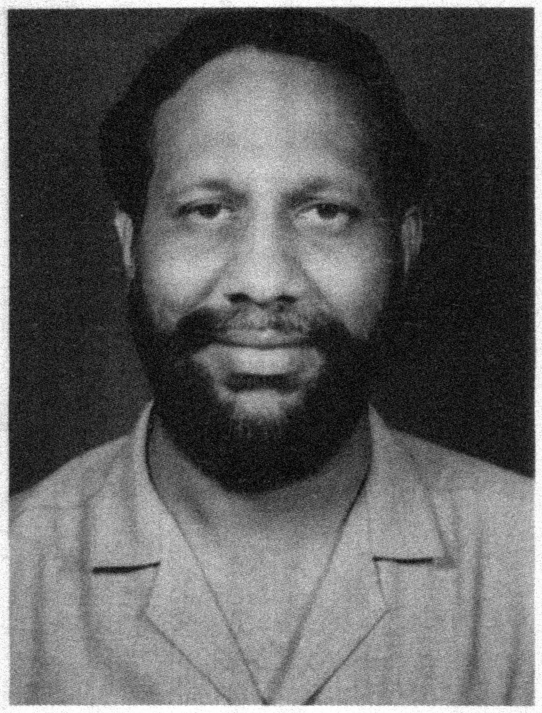


Hon. Satyanarayan Jatiya

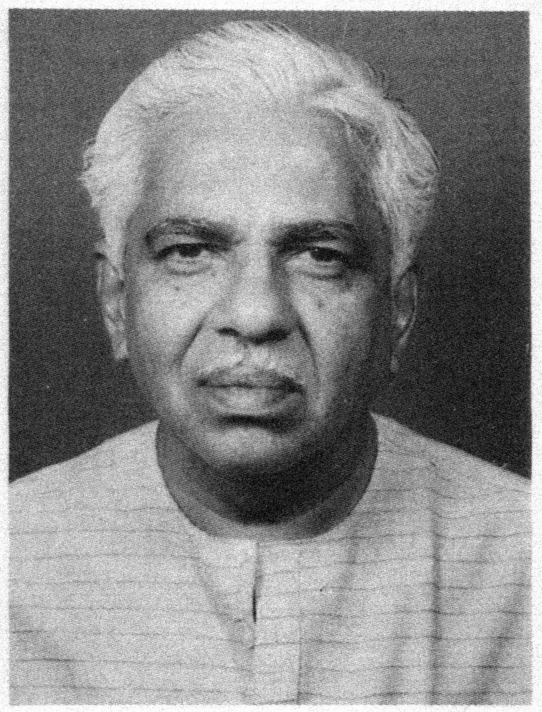
Hon. Shravan Kumar Patel



Hon. Ram Kapse

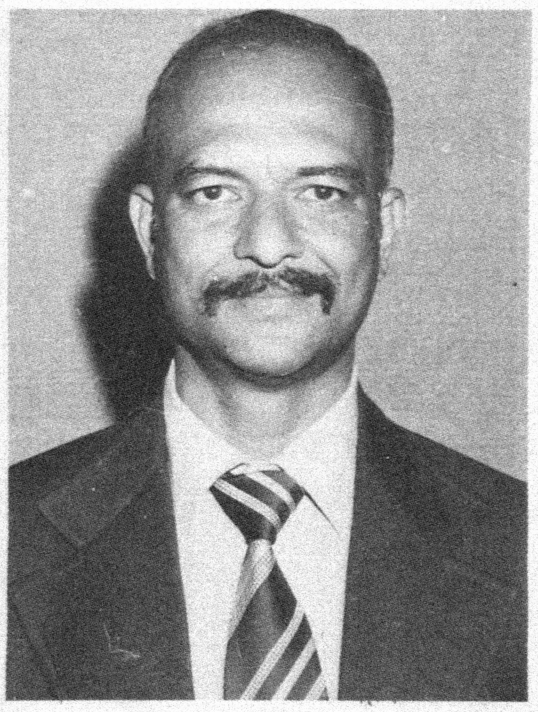


Hon. Vilàs Baburao Muttemwar



Hon. Ram Naik

Hon. Krupasindhu Bhoi



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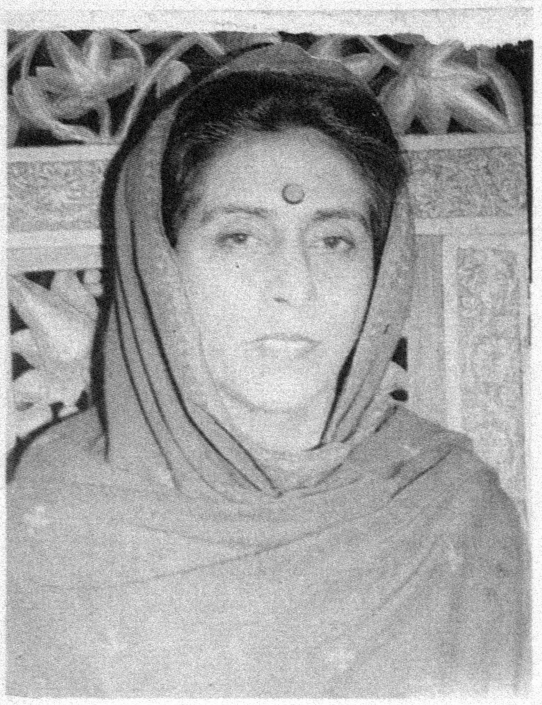
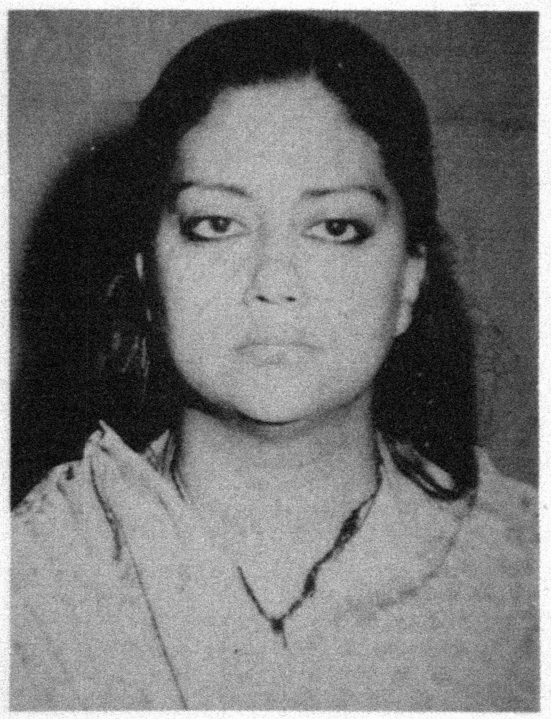


Hon. Santosh Chowdhary

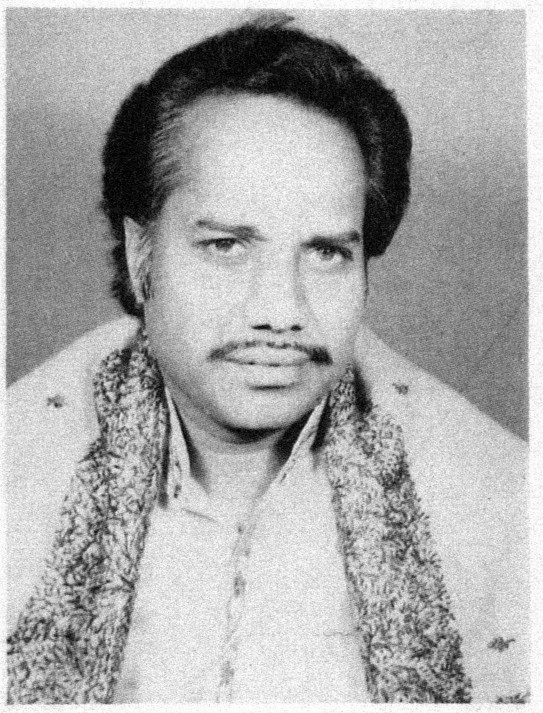
Hon. Buta Singh

Hon. Shiv Charan Mathur



Hon. Vasundhara Raje

Hon. Girija Vyas



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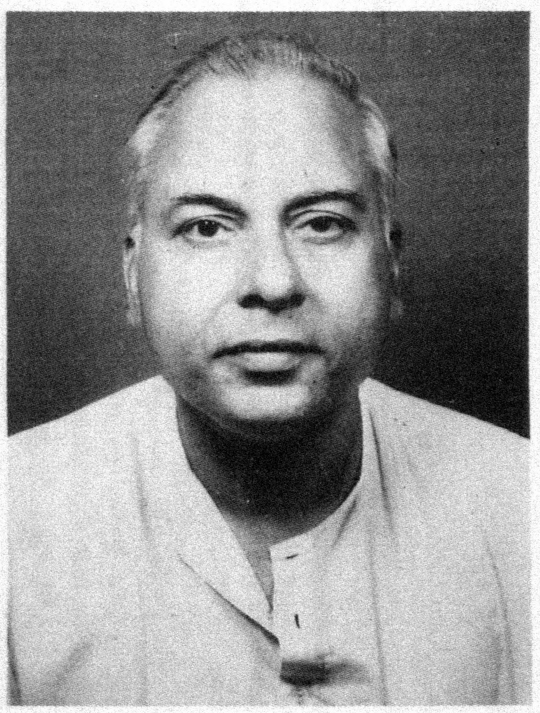

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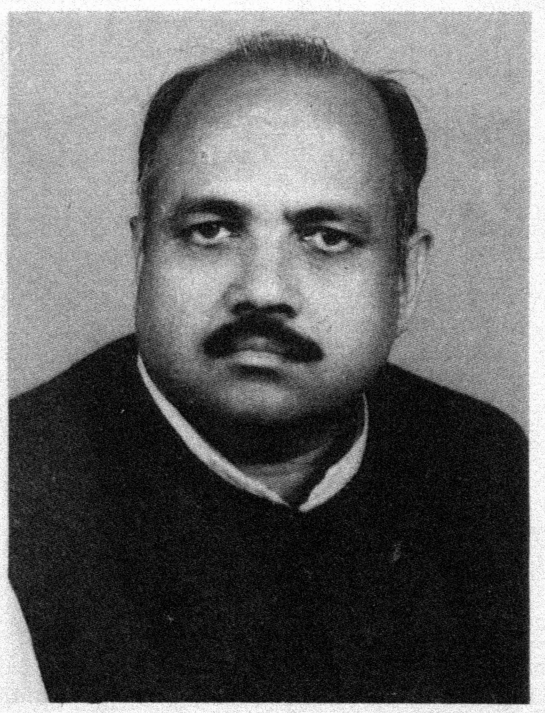

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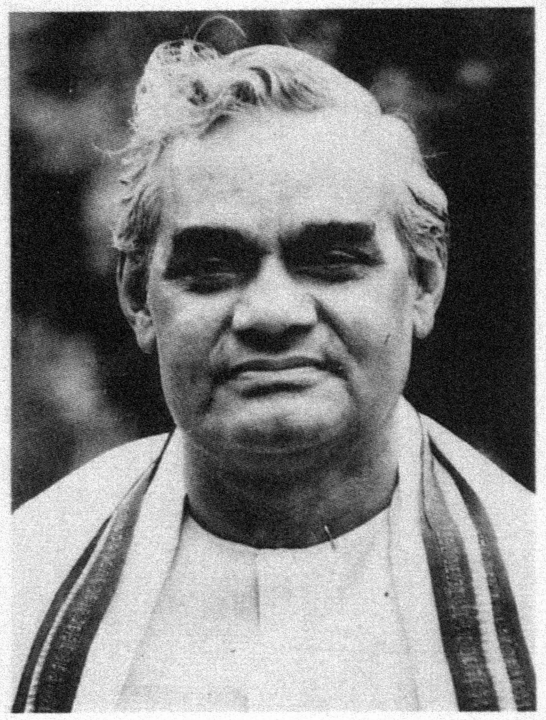
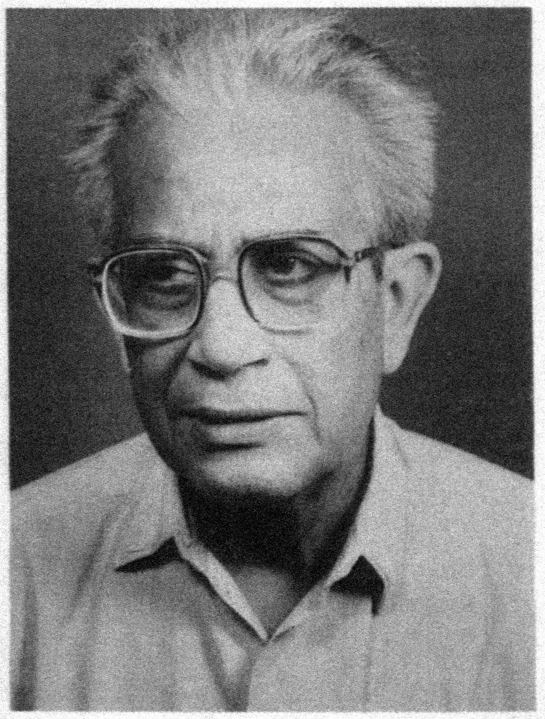


Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Hon. Malini Bhattacharya



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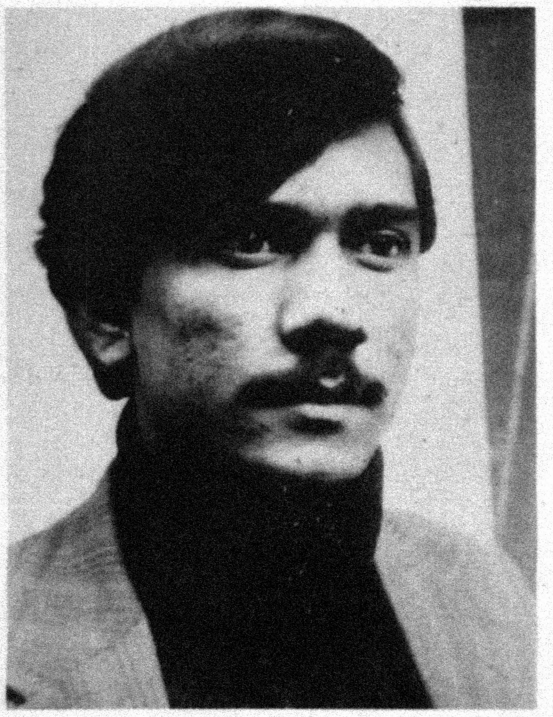

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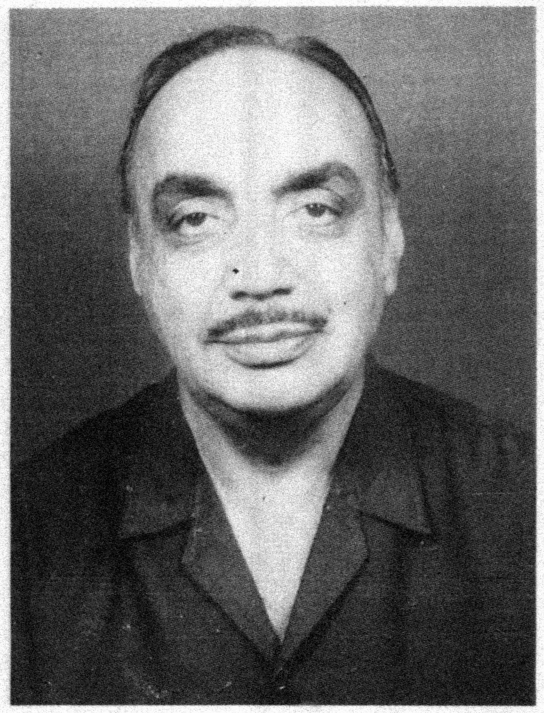

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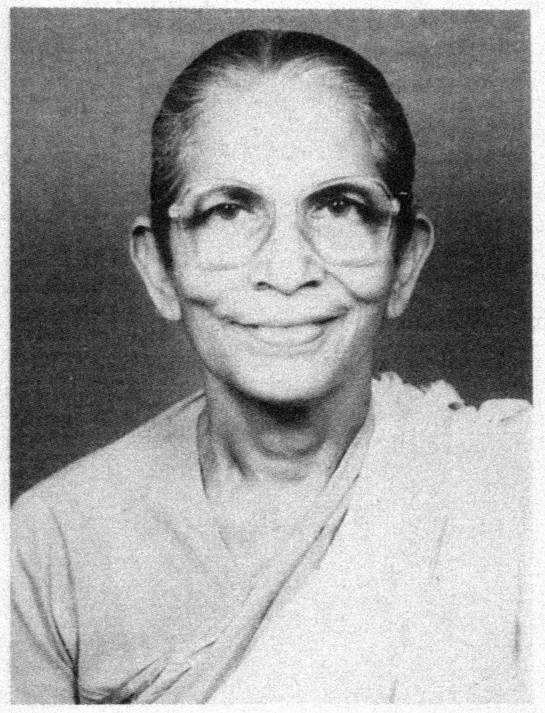

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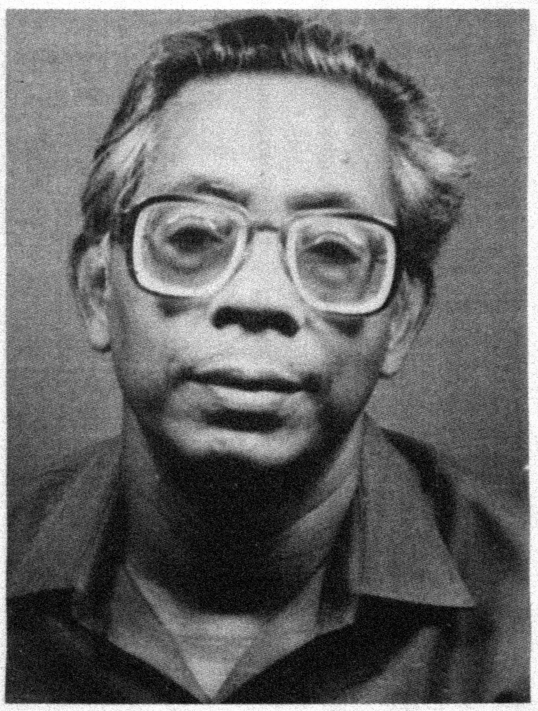

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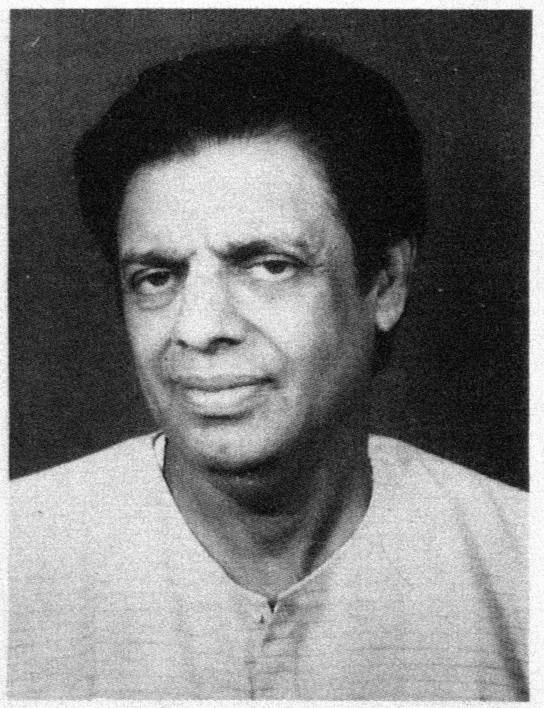

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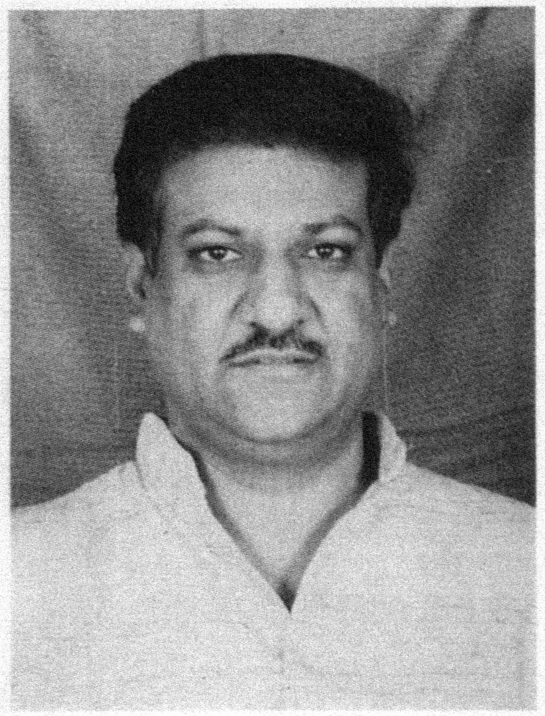

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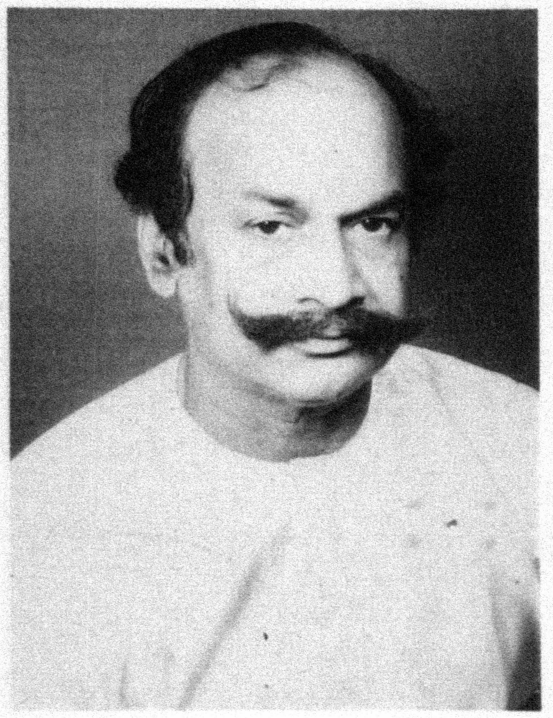

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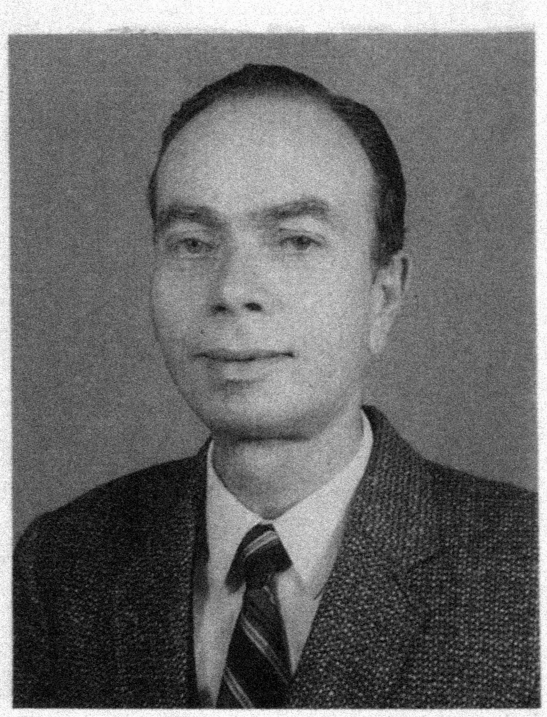

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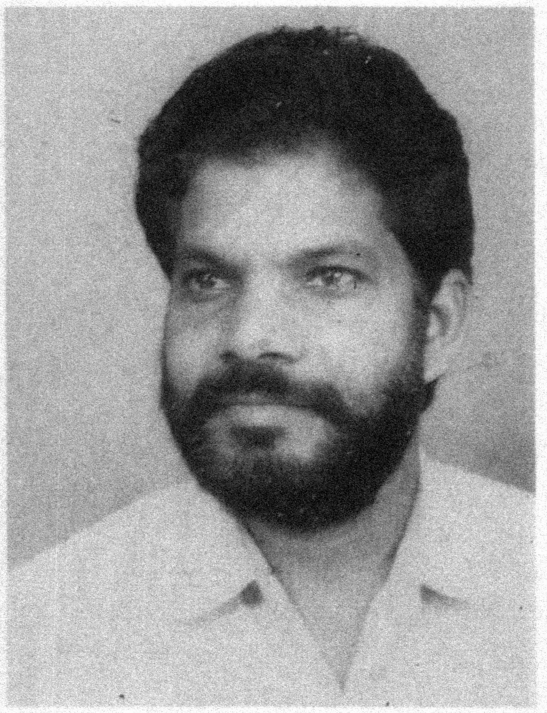

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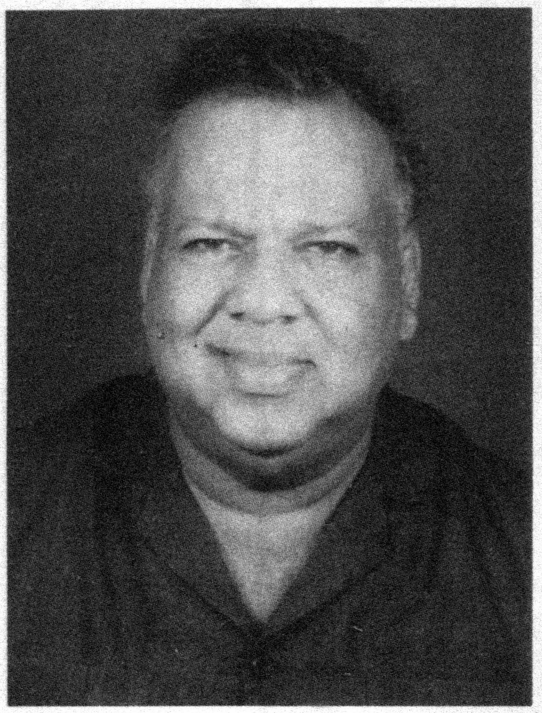

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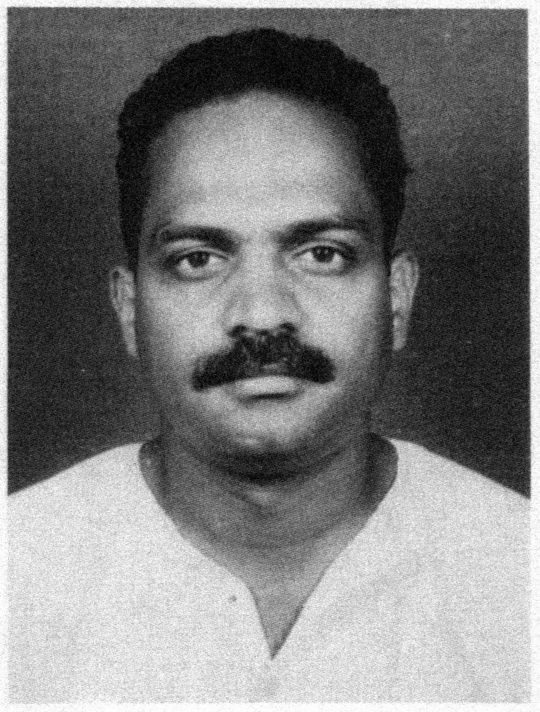
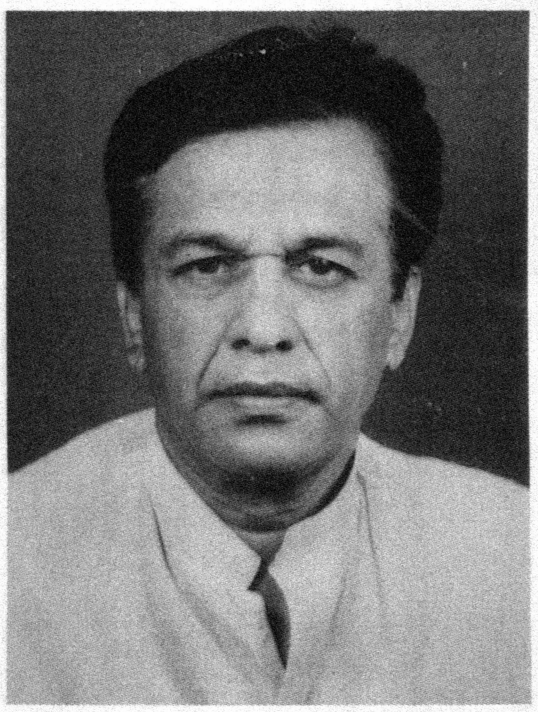


Hon. Sudhir Sawant



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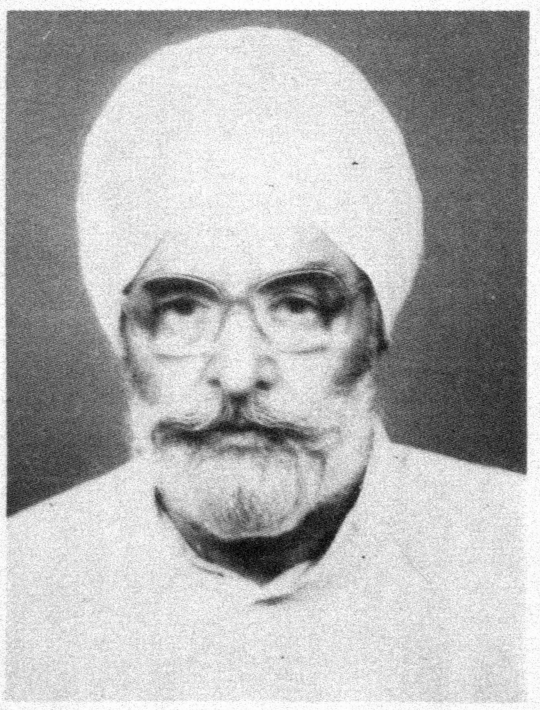


Hon. Tara Singh

Hon. D.K. Tharadevi

Hon. P.C. Chacko

Hon. Srikanta Jena

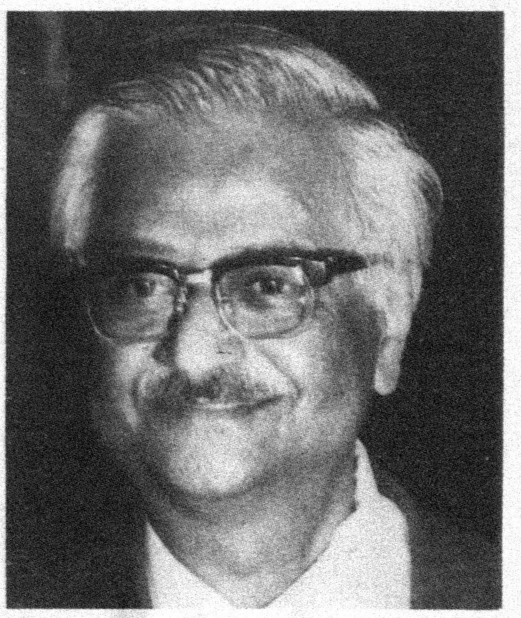
Hon. Tarachand Khandelwal

Hon. Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi

Hon. Saroj Khaparde

Hon. K.S. Soundram

Hon. Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav



Hon. Raja Ramanna

Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee was entrusted with work of planning and organization of the Conference and to suggest measures to make it a success.

With a view to identifying the arrangements for the Conference, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha held a meeting on 1 October 1992 with representatives from Ministries of External Affairs, Finance, Communications, Home, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Urban Development, Parliamentary Affairs, Railways, Department of Culture, ITDC and Doordarshan. Senior Officers from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats were also associated. The representatives of the Ministries were informed by S.G. about the magnitude of the Conference and the respective tasks they would be called upon to take up.

Subsequently, several review meetings were held with the Ministries and Departments concerned and an 'Organizing Committee' under the Chairmanship of S.G., Lok Sabha was formed. Apart from the Chairman, the Organizing Committee consisted of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. Officers not below the rank of Director from the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Communications, Defence, Commerce, External Affairs, Finance, Health and Family Welfare, Home Affairs, Human Resource Development, Industry, Information and Broadcasting, Parliamentary Affairs, Railways and Urban Development were also represented in the Committee. Besides, Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration, Administrator and Secretary, NDMC were also members of the Committee as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairman

Shri C.K. Jain,
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha Secretariat

2. Shri G.L. Batra,
   Additional Secretary
3. Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj,
   Additional Secretary
4. Shri S.C. Gupta,
   Joint Secretary
5. Shri U.S. Mishra,
   Joint Secretary
6. Shri K.K. Sharma.
   Joint Secretary
7. Shri T.S. Ahluwalia,
   Joint Secretary

Rajya Sabha Secretariat

8. Shri S.S. Sohoni,
   Additional Secretary

9. Shri B.G. Gujar,
   Director

10. Smt. Shovana Narayan,
    Director

Civil Aviation and Tourism

11. Shri P.K. Banerjee,
    Joint Secretary

12. Shri Arun Gupta,
    Joint Secretary

13. Capt. A.K. Sharma,
    Resident Director,
    Air India

Ministry of Communications

14. Shri S.K. Acharya,
    Dy. Director-General (Posts)

15. Shri G.S.S. Murty,
    Senior Deputy-Director-General (C.S.)
    (Deptt. of Telecommunication)

16. Shri S.K. D. Garg,
    General Manager,
    MTNL

17. Shri K.S. Guliani,
    Area Manager,
    Central Zone,
    MTNL

Ministry of Defence

18. Shri Satish Kumar,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Commerce

19. Shri A.K. Goswamy,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of External Affairs

20. Shri Vijay Kumar,
    Joint Secretary (Coordination)

21. Shri Shivshankar Mukherjee,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Finance

22. Smt. Aruna Makan,
    Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor

23. Shri U.K. Sen,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

24. Shri T.K. Das,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Home Affairs

25. Shri V.S. Ailawadi,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Human Resource Development

26. Smt. Komal Anand,
    Joint Secretary

27. Smt. Achala Moulick,
    Additional Director-General,
    Archaeological Survey of India

28. Shri Naved Masood,
    Director (Deptt. of Education)

Ministry of Industry

29. Shri V. Anand,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

30. Shri S. Lakshmi Narayanan,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

31 Shri M.M. Rajendran,
    Secretary

Ministry of Railways

32. Shri A.K. Basu,
    Joint Secretary

Ministry of Urban Development

33. Shri O.P. Goel,
    Director-General, Works,
    CPWD

34. Shri K.K. Khanna,
Chief Engineer (NDZ-I)
CPWD

35. Shri N. Krishnamurthy,
Chief Engineer (E)
CPWD

Delhi Administration

36. Shri R.K. Takker,
Chief Secretary

New Delhi Municipal Committee

37. Shri R.S. Sethi,
Administrator

38. Shri B.K. Gupta,
Secretary

CHAPTER III

PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

The success of any Conference depends on the level of planning and thinking that precede the Conference. This is particularly so in the case of an international conference of the importance and magnitude of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. The hosting of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in New Delhi was a great task as it involved the participation of over 1000 foreign delegates from 107 National Groups besides three Associate Members and 37 Observers. The process of organising the IPU Conference in New Delhi for the second time was set in motion with the proposal of Sir Michael Marshall, the President of the IPU in February 1992 that India might host the IPU Conference for the second time.

On the basis of the proposal of Sir Michael Marshall, a memorandum was prepared for the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The Executive Committee at its meeting held on 29 February 1992 considered the suggestion of Sir Michael Marshall and were of the view that India might consider the proposal in all aspects and if deemed appropriate, the request for hosting the Conference by India could be agreed to.

On 23 March 1992, a formal request for hosting the Conference by India from 15 March 1993 was received from Mr. Pierre Cornillon, Secretary-General, IPU. This date was not suitable to India as it coincided with the Budget Session of Parliament.

However, on 16 May 1992, Secretary-General, IPU informed that it would be possible to hold the 89th IPU Conference from 12 to 17 April 1993.

Agreement with IPU Secretariat

It is customary for the host Group to sign an agreement with the Secretariat of IPU demarcating in unambiguous terms the responsibilities of the host Group and that of the IPU Secretariat. On receiving the agreement from the IPU Secretariat, a memorandum was prepared again for consideration of the Executive Committee of Indian Parliamentary Group which authorised Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha to sign the agreement in Stockholm in September, 1992 during the 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference. Before the agreement was signed, comments were invited from the Ministry of Finance, External Affairs and Director-General (Works), Central Public Works Department.

Finances (Budget)

As per Agreement entered into with the IPU, the liability of the host Group extended to meeting all infrastructural expenses including the venue of the Conference. Besides, they were to bear the accommodation and living expenses of IPU staff (110 in number) during their official stay in New Delhi, local transportation, accommodation of the President and Secretary-General with Chauffeur-driven cars, sight-seeing tours, local as well as to Agra, for delegates, spouses and accompanying persons, lunches and dinners hosted by dignitaries, cultural programmes, recruitment of local staff, etc. The probable expenditure worked out was estimated at Rs. three crore. In June 1992, the Ministry of Finance were approached for concurrence to the proposal.

However, the Ministry agreed to grant a sum of Rs. 1.50 crore only and advised to economise and reduce the expenditure further.

Coordination with other Ministries/Departments

In the meantime, all efforts were made to make the Conference a grand success. The Ministry of External Affairs were asked in June 1992 to issue suitable instructions to our Missions about the issue of grants of visa to the delegates. Following this, the Ministry issued necessary instructions to our Missions in member-countries regarding this matter. In a coordinated effort with the Ministry of Home Affairs, it was also decided that visa for 15 days would be given on arrival to those persons from countries where India did not have any diplomatic mission.

With a view to make the delegates aware in advance of the weather conditions of Delhi in April, the Department of Metereology were requested to send a paragraph relating to the average maximum and minimum temperatures in that month, rainfall and the clothing advised for inclusion in the Information Circular being sent to each National Group.

In June 1992 a Circular was issued to all Ministries and Departments asking them to avoid holding of all major Conferences in view of the limited accommodation and transport in New Delhi. A note indicating the aims, scope and structure of IPU was circulated to all the Ministries/Departments to acquaint them with the nature and functioning of IPU. Telex messages were also sent to the Secretariat of each National Group to furnish the names of Speaker/Chairman/Deputy-Speaker/Clerk of Parliament so that invitations could be sent at the correct addresses.

The Ministry of Finance agreed to a request to bring out Commemorative Coins to mark the occasion and it was decided to issue the coins in the denomination of Rs. 10, 5 and Re. 1. The Department of Posts also agreed to issue a special commemorative stamp in the denomination of Re. 1 and a first-day cover.

With a view to provide quick and efficient service to the delegates, the Ministry of Finance were requested to ask the Banks having Branches in the Hotels where delegates would be staying and at the venue of the Conference Hotel Ashok to open extension counters for providing foreign exchange facilities to delegates.

For identifying the arrangements to be made for the Conference, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha convened a meeting on 1 October 1992 in Parliament House Annexe where representatives from Ministries of External Affairs, Finance, Communications, Home, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Urban Development, Parliamentary Affairs, Railways, Culture, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and Doordarshan were present. Senior Officers from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats also attended the meeting. The representatives of the Ministries were informed by Secretary-General about the magnitude of the Conference and the respective tasks they would be called upon to take up in connection with the Conference.

Meetings of the Committees for the Conference

Organizing Committee

Subsequently, several review meetings were held with the Ministries and Departments concerned and an 'Organizing Committee' under the chairmanship of Secretary-General, Lok Sabha was formed. Apart from the Chairman, the Organizing Committee consisted of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. Officers not below the rank of Director from the concerned Ministries and Departments were also represented in the Committee. Besides, Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration, Administrator and Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC) were also members of the Committee. The main task of the Organizing Committee was planning and organization of the Conference and to suggest measures to make it a great success.

Reception Committee

Similarly, a Reception Committee was also set up under the chairmanship of Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha. The main task of the Reception Committee was to receive/see off delegates attending the Conference at the airport and also at other official/social events organized at the time of the Conference.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Conferences from IPU, Mr. M. Bustos visited New Delhi from 27 to 29 October 1992 in connection with the organisation of meetings. Mr. Bustos went round Hotel Ashok several times during his stay and inspected Convention Hall, Banquet Hall, Cocktail Lounge and other areas. It was decided that Hotel Ashok would be the venue of the Conference and the inaugural ceremony would be held in the Central Hall, Parliament House. Venues for other meetings were also decided. During his visit, Mr. Bustos called on the Hon'ble Speaker and also held meetings with Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General, Dr. R.C. Bhardwaj, Additional Secretary and Shri Murari Lal, Director who were concerned with the planning and organisation of the Conference.

As per the agreement with IPU, it was the responsibility of the host Group to make necessary arrangements for accommodation. Consequently, several meetings were held with the Hotel authorities. All particulars regarding the Hotel facilities and arrangements were included in the General Information Brochure and sent to National Groups. Arrangements were also made to provide transportation to the participants.

All actions for preparation and printing of Invitation for 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, the Information Brochure, the Registration and Hotel Reservation forms etc. were initiated in November 1992 so that the delegates received them well in time. Subsequently these were sent to 116 National Groups who were members of the IPU.

A Conference Guide Book was prepared in English which contained information relating to inaugural ceremony, meeting rooms, agenda, detailed general programme, registration and information, transportation, identity badges, press service, typing pool and photocopying facilities for delegates, spouses programme, post-conference tours, official reception and events and other matter relating to the Conference which might be helpful to the participants. The English version of the Guide Book was sent to IPU Secretariat for vetting. The IPU Secretariat also got it translated into French and sent back both English and Fench texts. Later, these were printed in the form of a booklet by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and were circulated to participants and others from Registration and Information Counters located in the lobby of the main entrance of Hotel Ashok.

Close coordination was established with the IPU Secretariat for the preparation of the list of delegates. Any information received by the Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding the delegates and accompanying persons was passed on to IPU officers responsible for the printing of the list of delegates.

As it was the responsibility of the host Group to provide simultaneous interpretation system corresponding to the specifications drawn up by the International Organisations for standardization, the matter was pursued with Hotel Ashok and Central Public Works Department. Finally, the CPWD were asked to take up the work of providing simultaneous interpretation system, microphones and booths in the Convention Hall, Banquet Hall and other meeting rooms of Hotel Ashok.

The details of the staff to be deployed at Airports, Conference room, Registration and Information Desk, Transport Counter, Liaison duties, spouses programme etc. were worked out in consultation with officers as per allocation of duties. The Ministry of External Affairs also deputed certain persons for deployment at the Conference. Officers and staff who were assigned reception and protocol duties at airports were taken there on 13 March 1993 to brief them about the various formalities involved on arrival and departure of delegates.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met daily before the Conference Session began. The proceedings of the Conference were secret. However, the decisions arrived at the meetings were communicated to the Conference.

In view of the large number of Speakers registered, with regard to the debate on item 3 of the agenda, the Steering Committee at its meeting held on 12 April 1993 decided to limit each delegation's speaking time to 8 minutes and to recommend that the morning sitting on Tuesday, 13 April should begin at 9 a.m., adjourn at 1 p.m., resume again at 2 p.m. and continue till the list of Speakers was completed at about 7.30 p.m.

CHAPTER IV

INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 12th April, 1993 in the historic Central Hall of Parliament packed to capacity.

Earlier, a rousing reception in traditional Indian style followed by colourful welcome and folk dances by school children was accorded to the delegates as soon as they started arriving at Gate No. 1 of Parliament House to attend the inaugural ceremony.

As the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma arrived at Gate No. 5, National Salute was presented to him by President's Body Guards. Thereafter, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao; Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; Minister of Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla; President of Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall; Under Secretary-General of United Nations, Mr. Joseph Reed; Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Pierre Cornillon; Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal and Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, Shri C.K. Jain were presented to the President. Thereafter, the members of the IPU Executive Committee assembled inside Gate No. 5, were also presented to the President of India.

The President was then conducted to the Central Hall in procession. The members of the IPU Executive Committee followed the procession. The entry of the President into the Central Hall was heralded by a fanfare of trumpets and a standing ovation of dignitaries gathered from around the globe, which continued till the President reached his Chair. On the President reaching his seat on the dais at 10 a.m., the National Anthem was played. The delegates then took their seats.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha and the President of the India Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, welcoming the distinguished gathering, observed in his Address that as one of the oldest civilisations of the world, India had always set for itself a mission for ensuring peace and harmony and cooperation and co-existence. The ideals pursued by the IPU were thus in close conformity with the Indian ethos. Shri Patil noted that the global issues transcended national boundaries and affected mankind at large, and called for concerted efforts by parliamentarians of the world, cutting across national, political and racial divides. He added that the assembly of parliamentarians from all over the globe itself was an affirmation of their abiding faith in the emerging world order whose mainstay should be consultation and cooperation, rather than confrontation and tension.

Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall said that despite the end of the Cold War and super power confrontation, armed conflict was still prevalent in many parts of the world. For many newly independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe and others around the world that had chosen the path of democracy, life presented many challenges. In this process, the IPU itself had to respond to many requests for help in maintaining its two great objectives: the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the development of democratic institutions.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Joseph Verner Reed read out a Message to the Conference from U.N. Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros Boutros - Ghali. In his Message, Dr. Ghali observed that by actively encouraging your respective Governments, and by helping to build support among your fellow citizens, you can each have a positive and very practical impact on the work now underway. As elected representatives and parliamentarians from around the world, your support for this great endeavour can demonstrate in the most forceful way possible, the powerful and inescapable link between the paramount human requirements of disarmament, development and democracy.

In his address, the Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao observed that India's commitment to a parliamentary democratic government, staunch belief in the efficacy of democratic political processes and undeterred faith in peace and co-existence as worthy principles of international relations, extended naturally to a deep commitment to the IPU. The road to a peaceful and stable future could only be traversed through cooperation and inter-dependence. That was an inter-dependence which recognised equality among nations, big or small, rich or poor, and pledged them to respect the sovereignty of each. We could not go wrong if we made co-existence and peace our watchword and common universal good our objective.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan observed that the preservation of democracy and the promotion of development and social justice for people had emerged as the principal themes before the world. Mankind had to evolve further, both institutionally and spiritually, before we could say that freedom, justice and peace had been firmly established in the world. We all had to work hard, almost everywhere in the world, for the preservation of freedom and democracy.

In his inaugural address, the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma said that democratic approach had arisen from an awareness of the importance of the rights of the human being and an understanding of the truth that the general well-being of all could be attained only when human rights were accorded their due position in polity. Every gain in the cause of democracy benefitted all; equally every injury to this cause affected all. There was an imminent need for us to realise that safeguarding the wherewithal of democracy was a common concern of humankind. In this context, the President cautioned that the international terrorism, particularly terrorism sponsored by another State should be seen as a grave threat to the cause of democracy. Dr. Sharma expressed confidence that the Conference would beam a powerful message to the world of our common determination to prove the supremacy of democratic ideals for human advancement, and our united resolve to fight sinister elements contriving to destroy all that we labour to create.

After declaring the Conference open, the President released a Book 'Triumph of Democracy — An Overview of World Parliaments' edited by Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Secretary-General of the Conference. The President also released a Special Number of the 'Journal of Parliamentary Information', a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

During the function, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall announced the IPU Award posthumously to late Dr. G.S. Dhillon for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of the ideals of IPU. Dr. Dhillon, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council during 1973-76, was the first Asian to hold this post. The Award was presented to the widow of late Dr. Dhillon, Smt. Ranbir Kaur Dhillon by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Respected Rashtrapati Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma Ji, Shrimati Sharmaji, Respected Up-Rashtrapati Shri Narayananji, Shrimati Narayananji, Respected Pradhan Mantri Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao Ji, Respected Giani Zail Singhji, Honourable President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall, Mrs. Michael Marshall, Honourable Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Joseph Reed, Honourable Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Dr. Pierre Cornillon, Honourable Governors, Honourable Chief Ministers, Honourable Speakers, Honourable Ministers, Honourable Members of Parliament, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi Ji, Honourable Delegates, Excellencies, Shrimati Ranbir Kaur Dhillon Ji, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We are grateful to the Rashtrapatiji for having consented to inaugurate this Conference and to speak to the Members in this Convocation. We are grateful to the Vice-President of India and the Prime Minister for gracing this occasion with their presence and speaking to the audience.

I welcome, on behalf of the people and Parliament of India, the distinguished fellow parliamentarians from different parts of the world and our other honoured guests who have assembled here for the inauguration of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference. Your brief sojourn in India, I am sure, would bring us closer to each other and help us better understand each other's perspective of global issues.

The high dome and the walls of this Central Hall of the Indian Parliament have been witness to many historical events. It was here that the Constitution of independent India was enacted and the foundations of a Secular and Democratic Republic laid. It was here that the architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, spoke of India's "tryst with destiny" and of the determination to redeem the pledges made to the people of this country.

It is only appropriate that this conference of the parliamentarians of the world is being inaugurated in this historic Hall which has been so inseparably linked with the shaping of Parliamentary Democracy in this country.

It is also appropriate that New Delhi, the capital city of the largest democracy of the world, should host this conference. The city, as you would discover, typifies the 'soul' of the nation. From the epic city of Indraprastha, believed to have been founded by Pandavas in around 1500 B.C. to the modern city of New Delhi, this city has passed through many turns and turbulences. Every age has left its own imprint and today the city is a curious blend of the modern and the traditional; a confluence of different cultural streams which have given shape to the composite culture of India. Above all, the city throbs with an unceasing range of activities and has a million ways of saying "you are welcome".

As one of the oldest civilisations of the world, India has always set for itself a mission in the world—a mission for peace and harmony, a mission for co-operation and co-existence. The undercurrent of all our ancient thought and philosophy right from the Vedic Era has been an emphasis on the essential unity of the universe, compassion and consideration, tolerance and respect for others views and life. Our sages called for a synthesis between spiritual enrichment and the material advancement and stressed upon the essential

harmony between all living and non-living beings. The intense and profound spiritual experience of India has shaped our world view which is characterised by a sense of oneness of the world. This has led us to strive for the emancipation of the oppressed and the suppressed all over the world.

No wonder then, the freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi was not aimed merely at India's political independence, but was a relentless crusade against colonial subjugation and all forms of exploitation all over the world. The Indian nationalists inspired many a nationalist movement in Asia and Africa and forged a strong bond with those who were struggling for their self rule. A number of states achieved freedom shortly after India became independent and the pre-independent links have since flourished into enduring relationships.

We, as a sovereign democratic republic have always endeavoured for international peace and global co-operation. The famous five principles of peaceful co-existence, enunciated by Pandit Nehru in the fifties, constitute a charter for world peace and have been recognised by the world as a durable basis for achieving international co-operation. India has always registered her voice against global arms build-up and emphasised on universal and complete disarmament. All contentious issues should be resolved through negotiations and exchange of ideas as only peaceful, democratic means can ensure a just and lasting solution to all our problems.

These ideas also emanate from our firm faith and strong commitment to democratic ideals which date back to the Vedic period when representative institutions and popular assemblies flourished in various parts of the Indian landmass. Our preference for representative democracy after attaining independence and the fact that democracy has been working in this part of the world in an exemplary way bears a strong testimony to the fact that democratic values are deeply rooted in our history and culture.

The ideals pursued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union are, thus in close conformity with the Indian ethos. Emerging out of the peace movements of the 19th century, this international organization, which brings together the representatives of the Parliaments of sovereign states has been striving for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions world over. Conceived by a few peace loving and nobel-hearted parliamentarians more than a century ago to promote the concept of peace and international arbitration, the Union has, over the years, transformed itself into a global movement and a unique forum for dialogue among parliamentarians, representing, as it does, almost all shades of opinions and every political system thriving in the world.

Global issues transcend national boundaries and affect the mankind at large, calling for concerted efforts by Parliamentarians of the world cutting across national, political and racial divides. It is increasingly been realised that issues of peace and prosperity, democracy and development are too vital to be left to a few persons alone. Active participation of popular representatives in these closely related issues with a view to influencing international relations, can indeed be highly productive. In fact, the impressive record of activities and achievements of the IPU fully justifies the increasing faith being reposed in parliamentary diplomacy. The podium of its conference have provided ample opportunities to Parliamentarians to put across their views and to explore possibilities of finding solutions to intractable problems. Besides its various peace missions in the strife-ridden world, IPU in its successive conferences has addressed itself to all issues of interest to the international community and promoted improvements in the working methods of Parliamentary institutions.

In recent years, we have witnessed a reassertion in the values of democracy as evident in the breath-taking changes that have occurred in certain parts of the world. These developments unmistakably prove that a broad based democracy wherein the people have a genuine participation at all levels of governance, alone can effectively fulfil their urges and aspirations and provide real solution to their problems. The movements for democracy provide a beacon of hope in the entire scenario and we hope that in the changing context, the role and significance of Inter-Parliamentary Union will acquire an adage. Besides emphasising upon the values of representative democracy throughout its existence, the IPU has been lending its voice to the creation of

attendant socio-economic conditions without which democracy as the most cherished political system, remains an elusive goal.

The challenges that lie ahead are many. We are beset with many prickly problems — social, political and economic — common to all of us. There are conflicts and strifes in many parts of the world. Sub-national and ethnic movements have emerged. Terrorism has become a bane of modern society. Environmental pollution and drug trafficking confront us all. Hunger and starvation, want and inequality, miseries of the poor, helpless and innocent are yet to be conquered. Without finding a meaningful solution to these problems, we cannot be successful in restoring freedom and ensuring dignity of life. The task may appear to be gigantic and the path to peace and progress arduous. Yet, no hurdle is insurmountable if our devotion to the ideals and dedication to the task is total and if we are determined in our efforts and united in our strategies.

In our resolve to bring in a New World Order, which will be just and reasonable for all, we will have to effectively replace confrontation with co-operation among nations. Revolutionary advancement in the fields of science and technology have given us an insight into the mysteries of the cosmos and helped us in unearthing startling facts about the universe, the nature and our own life. It is desirable that we not only exchange our acquired knowledge, but also use it in a constructive manner for the betterment of humanity at large. The future beckons us to share the resources on the land, in the oceans, the space and outer space, for an effective use of them by working hand in hand.

I believe this august assembly of parliamentarians from all over the globe is an affirmation of our abiding faith in emerging world order whose mainstay should be consultation and co-operation, rather than confrontation and tension. This new global order should be tempered by the unswerving commitment to peace and harmony among peoples and nations so that the generations yet to be born will lead a meaningful life which will bring out the best in one and all. We cannot afford to be complacent in that noble task or else we will be found guilty at the bar of history.

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference is returning to India for the second time after a long interval of twenty-four years. We have had the privilege of successfully hosting the 57th Conference in New Delhi in 1969. That Conference was attended by about 500 participants from fifty-two member countries. Today, when the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference is being inaugurated we have the honour of being host to participants from over a hundred countries. This indeed is a distinct manifestation of the growing significance of Inter-Parliamentary co-operation in our present day world.

As is the case with every Conference of the IPU, this time again the agenda has been conceived with emphasis on contemporaneous issues of global significance. This Conference will deliberate upon topics of such crucial importance as transparency in arms transfers as a means to check violence to achieve political objectives, educational and cultural policies as a means of fostering greater respect for democratic values besides, as is customary, a general debate on the prevailing political, economic and social situation in the world. Women parliamentarians are also meeting separately to discuss, among other things, the prevailing imbalances in the participation of men and women in public life.

The New Delhi Conference is taking place at a very critical juncture in international relations. The world of today offers both challenges and opportunities. The choice before humankind is simple, yet with tremendous importance: co-existence or co-extinction. It is left to us to choose the path we want to tread. History has taught that given the will, humankind can cope with any challenge and come out with flying colours. Opportunities as are unfolding before us now do not come our way very frequently. The ingenuity of man needs to be put to best use to the betterment of the world as a whole.

This Conference of IPU, deliberating as it is on all these vital issues, could well be a landmark as we are nearing the dawn of the 21st century. Let our discussions be permeated by a global vision with meaningful

contributions from parliamentarians from the world over. Let there be a free sharing of each other's thoughts and experiences. Let our collective endeavour concretise ideas and action plans for the global family of humankind.

The Conference would also provide the distinguished participants an opportunity to have a glimpse of our country, our parliamentary system at work and our manifold achievements in diverse fields. We sincerely hope that your stay in our country will be pleasant and comfortable and the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference a resounding success.

As this distinguished gathering may be aware, the year 1973 is particularly significant in India's membership of IPU. It was in that year, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, Dr. G.S. Dhillon was elected the President of IPU. Dhillonji is no more in our midst today. He was known in parliamentary circles all over the world for his endearing personality, statesman-like approach and above all, for his humaneness. It is in recognition of these rare qualities that the IPU has chosen to honour Dhillonji posthumously with an Award for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of parliamentary ideals.

Smt. Dhillon is with us here today to receive the Award. We thank her for receiving the Award. We should thank Sir Michael Marshall for his valuable contribution in this respect.

We should thank Sir Michael Marshall for his valuable contribution in instituting this Award and having it presented to Shrimati Dhillon. It honours a dear son of India, the Indian Parliamentary System and the Indian people.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY SIR MICHAEL MARSHALL, PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL

Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, Ministers, Parliamentary colleagues and friends,

It is a great honour to meet here in the Central Hall of Parliament House. This magnificent building is all the more impressive in reminding us that we meet in the seat of one of the world's largest democracies. It is also a special honour to meet, on the occasion of this inaugural ceremony, in the presence of the President of India and to thank him, as well as the Parliament of India and the people of this great subcontinent, for the warm welcome we have received and the excellent arrangements which I know will ensure we have an outstanding Conference.

This is the second time in the history of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that we have had the privilege of holding a statutory Conference in India. As has been said, the last occasion was in 1969. This heralded a new era of high-level involvement of leading Indians in the work of the Union.

It would be invidious to highlight the role of many distinguished Indian parliamentarians who have been active in the Inter-Parliamentary Union in recent years but I believe it is appropriate to mention some of those who were among the first to make their mark in the IPU as representatives of the newly independent India. Mr. N.S. Reddy, Speaker, Lok Sabha and later President of India was on the Union's Executive Committee in 1970. Mr. S.L. Shakdher chaired the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament from 1973 to 1976. Above all we remember at that time Mr. G.S. Dhillon, who was my predecessor as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council from 1973 to 1976. He was the first Asian to hold this post. On my last visit to India, I had the opportunity of talking to him about the work of the IPU and found his enthusiasm and commitment undiminished.

We were saddened by his recent death and we wish to commemorate this special contribution to the work of the Union. With your permission, Mr. President, later in our proceedings I shall be seeking your involvement in the presentation of a rosebowl to Mrs. Dhillon whose presence here today we greatly appreciate. The rosebowl is inscribed "In memory of the late Mr. G.S. Dhillon — President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1973-1976". We believe that this presentation and your involvement, Mr. President, reflect the linkage between India and over 100 countries represented at this Conference as we pay our tribute to one of your outstanding parliamentarians.

Since the last Conference was held in India almost a quarter of a century ago, there have been many remarkable changes in the world's geopolitical structure, but we still find ourselves struggling with the same basic issues.

Despite the end of the Cold War and super-power confrontation, armed conflict is still prevalent in many parts of the world. And for many newly independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe and others around the world that have chosen the path of democracy, life presents many challenges. In this process, the Union itself has to respond to many requests for help in maintaining its two great objectives: the peaceful resolution of conflict and the development of democratic institutions.

It is therefore particularly appropriate that the two main topics on the agenda of our Conference respond in many aspects to these objectives. Our first topic "Transparency in arms transfers through a global arms register, as a means to check the growing use of violence to achieve political objectives" follows the United Nations decision in 1991 to establish just such a register. Its aim was to make the international conventional arms trade more transparent and thereby strengthen international security. It was hoped in this way that weapons would only be produced for legitimate security purposes.

In pursuing these matters, the IPU can point to a long history as the only international body speaking out for more control of this kind. In 1976, at our 63rd Conference in Madrid, parliamentarians called for international regulations on the trade in conventional weapons as a way of reducing tension in the world. In 1985, the Inter-Parliamentary Symposium relating to conventional weapons was held in Mexico City when it followed up the Madrid Conference appeal. In 1990, the specialized Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Disarmament in Bonn called for the creation of a register of international arms transfers a year before the UN General Assembly took action in this area.

For our second topic, we shall be debating the linkage between educational and cultural policies and democratic values. In doing so, we would do well to reflect on the words of H.G. Wells who wrote in 1920: "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe".

In this setting, I believe it is also appropriate to recall the words which you, Mr. President, used on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the independence of India when you said in Parliament House: "Democracy and the principle of one person one vote imply that all are equal and that in the exercise of their democratic rights everyone enjoys equal protection. Legal protection, however, is not enough. Democratic rights need social protection. We all need protection against all forms of inequality based on birth, caste or creed."

Mr. President, in that assertion, I believe you underlined the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, in addition to non-discrimination, guarantees the people's right of participation in the cultural life of the community, a share in the benefits of scientific advancements and, above all, the opportunity of free basic education. These are issues upon which, I trust, this Conference can put forward concrete proposals so that they may be considered in more detail at the IPU's specialized Symposium on Human Rights in Budapest next month.

For many countries which have recently moved to independence and the creation of true democracy, there are still battles in overcoming a tradition in which education was often a political tool and culture was combined with intolerance for differing viewpoints. And, overall, hang continued threats to international relations which can distort the process of internal growth and development.

Some of these challenges are reflected in the wide selection of topics from which we will choose our supplementary item. This choice, together with our general debate, is sure to touch on many aspects of the grievous human condition so movingly described by you. Mr. Speaker, when you spoke of the conflict and strife and the hunger and disease which are still an affront to mankind as we near the 21st century.

It is in that sense, therefore, of reviewing a wide range of challenges for the IPU as it looks towards its traditional task in seeking the peaceful resolution of conflict, that we should draw inspiration from our presence here in India.

Who can forget that it was the principle of non-violence advocated by Mahatma Gandhi that brought a totally new concept to relations between nation-states? And we cannot ignore the remarkable degree of resilience which India has shown in espousing the path of democracy despite so many challenges.

Mr. President,
Fellow parliamentarians,

I hope you will forgive a small personal note in conclusion. I spent the first ten years of my adult working life based in the Indian subcontinent. It was from that early introduction to the political and economic development of your country and its neighbours that I trace my first stirrings of political involvement and an appreciation of the real meaning of the so-called North/South divide as well as the universal divide between the haves and the have-nots.

When we think of this divide, let us not forget what it means in personal terms. At the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, here in Delhi, are carved the following words: "Recall the face of the poorest and the most helpless man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he be able to gain anything by it ? Will it restore him to a control over his life and destiny ? In other words, will it lead to `swaraj' or self-rule for the hungry and also spiritually starved millions ? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away."

Let us not forget this timeless call to each and everyone of us and particularly to the parliamentarians of the world gathered here today.

It is with a full heart, therefore, that I express on behalf of the IPU the thanks of all of us to our host country for the opportunity we have to meet here in Delhi at a time of challenge for parliaments and governments, around the world. Let us hope that the political ideals of independent India and its rich and ancient culture may inspire us all to greater and more effective efforts in the days that lie ahead.

I conclude and hope my friends in India will echo the words which I would like to put to them — *Jai* IPU, *Jai Jagat, Jai Hind.*

OBSERVATIONS BY AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER REED, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MESSAGE FROM DR. BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Mr. Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

It is a great honour and personal pleasure for me to be here to represent the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali at this 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Mr. Speaker and Mr. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I thank you for this extra podium which you have given me this morning, which makes my life easier.

It is a great pleasure, Mr. President, for me to participate in this Conference in New Delhi because this is the capital of a country that I love dearly and have great respect for. I have prided myself on the friendship with many of India's great statesmen, leaders and diplomats, both here and in Washington.

Throughtout the years that I have been connected with the United Nations and with the Government of the United States, I have followed India's role in the United Nations with great admiration. India's skilful leadership of the Group of Non-Aligned nations and her active and dynamic diplomacy at the Parliament of man have earned my great admiration and respect.

One of the things that I admire most about India is that it is and continues to remain the world's largest democracy. And India is a vital force in today's changing world.

I salute India's devotion to democracy and wish India and the Indian people every success in the future.

It now gives me great pleasure to present a portion of the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"Few aspects of international life have changed more profoundly in recent years then the pursuit of arms regulation and disarmament. A decade ago, we were in the midst of a deadly arms race that was threatening to spin out of control. Military expenditures worldwide were rising dramatically. The nuclear arms race was preparing to spread to outer space.

Much has changed, we have now pulled back from the nuclear armageddon. A new spirit of cooperation prevails. Significant progress has been achieved in a number of important areas. In particular, there have been impressive accomplishments in reducing strategic and nuclear weapons. The United States and the Russian Federation have concluded ten bilateral agreements. In the world's most heavily armed region, Europe, disarmament has already begun to encompass conventional weapons, and the process is gaining momentum.

Although we have taken some necessary and important strides in dealing with the global threat created by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, the world remains a dangerous place. As the spectre of nuclear annihilation has receded, we are now beginning to appreciate the high social, political and human cost of our having saturated the globe with an overabundance of conventional arms.

The situation is troubling when we consider that not only have arms sales increased dramatically over the past three decades, but so too has the level of sophistication and fire-power of the conventional arms being transferred. Buyers have increasingly demanded more sophisticated, state-of-the-art weaponry.

Without the external constraints on conflict which the cold war imposed, the terrible consequences of our having successfully blanketed the globe with arms are now being brutally brought home to us. Rivalries, conflicts and long suppressed ambitions have burst violently into the open. Armed with destructive new weaponry, localized and regional grievances have developed into matters of international significance and concern. In Cambodia, Western Sahara, Southern Africa, Somalia, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in the Middle-East and elsewhere, the results are plain for all to see.

The end of the cold war has made conventional arms limitation an urgent priority. We must now take advantage of the fact that the end of the cold war has also made conventional arms limitation a realistic possibility.

In my report entitled "Disarmament in the post-cold war era", I noted that the time had come for the practical integration of disarmament and arms regulation issues into the broader structure of the international peace and security agenda. My report also noted that it was now necessary to take a global approach to the process of disarmament. Lastly, the Report urged that we build upon and revitalize past achievements in arms regulations and arms reduction. Our practical objective is now clear: We must achieve greater overall security at lower levels of armaments.

In that connection, your role as parliamentarians is crucial. I appeal to you to work for and to support the important confidence-building efforts now under way. As elected representatives and parliamentarians from around the world, your support for this great endeavour can demonstrate in the most forceful way possible the powerful and inescapable link between the paramount human requirements of disarmament, development and democracy."

That, distinguished guests, was the synopsis of the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The full text of the message of the Secretary-General will be available to you shortly.

Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Mr. Secretary-General of IPU, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I thank you on behalf of the Secretary-General and on my own behalf. I wish the 89th Inter-parliamentary Conference every success.

ADDRESS BY SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Up-Rashtrapatiji, Mr. Speaker, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Secretary-General of the IPU, Smt. Soniaji, Distinguished Delegates, Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure that the Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union returns to India after a gap of nearly a quarter century. We feel privileged to host the Conference which has steadfastly remained a forum of international cooperation. India's unshakable commitment to the parliamentary sysfem, staunch belief in the efficacy of democratic political processes and deep faith in peace and co-existence as worthy principles of international relations, translate naturally into a full commitment to the IPU. I extend to you all, a very warm and hearty welcome.

In a world where every channel of cooperative action is important, it is particularly incumbent upon us to strengthen old and valued associations. The IPU stands as a proud symbol of such cooperation, dating back a century and more. Over these turbulent and epoch-making decades, it has remained a force making for mutual understanding and cohesion. That indeed is a cause for rejoicing and hope.

The IPU carries the voice of the people across national boundaries and on to a common international forum. The collective voice of the people as expressed through their Parliaments is an enduring force indeed. This is the significance of the IPU at the people's level.

As votaries of the representative system of Government we are aware that a political system derives substance and legitimacy from the people. The system must therefore genuinely reflect their aspirations, concerns and continuing needs. These are often conditioned by the international environment and thus have international ramifications. It is, therefore, imperative that representative institutions do not remain insular, or that in their own perceived national interest, those elected to power do not remain isolated from fast changes in the world at large. When representative institutions from as many as 116 countries form an international union, we can readily see that such an organization is uniquely placed to play a significant role on behalf of a very substantial section of world population.

History has emphasized that the greatest good can come from strengthening international cooperation. Interdependence becomes more and more real and compelling with every passing day. More than ever before, economic and ecological security have become matters that transcend national boundaries.

Yet, notwithstanding the many signs of human progress, our generation and this century have been witness to horrors of war, disease, famine and degradation. We are not too far away from the 21st century. Many experts feel that we may also not be too far removed from the brink of the final abyss. This is admittedly a sombre scenario, but perhaps it will bring into sharper focus the responsibility that we, as parliamentarians, share.

The IPU has a large membership of 116 countries, not all of which have exactly the same political systems. But the adherence to the principles of democratic functioning is beyond question. Similarly, the

problems that nations have to contend with may differ in their specific terms. Our national achievements are often a mixed bag of pressing problems, unforeseen crises, temporary setbacks as well as heartening successes. But no one can deny that the quest for a peaceful world is, and must be, a shared concern of all nations.

We are all in some way, protagonists in contemporary history. But even as we live our lives, we are, through our actions, inexorably shaping the future. This entails on every one of us the solemn duty of making every honest effort for a better world.

Let us then, without delay, start at the present. Every venture is also an opportunity for a fresh beginning. Let us use the forum of the IPU not only for theoretical reasoning on the future, but more urgently, for practical action today.

We have embarked on a journey into a momentous decade. The 1990s will truly be the watershed years in global affairs in the realm of political, economic and environmental challenges and changes. The road to a peaceful and stable future can only be traversed through cooperation which recognizes equality among nations, big or small, rich or poor, and pledges them to respect the sovereignty of each.

We cannot go wrong if we make co-existence and peace our watchword, and common universal good our objective. The notion of oneness is a timeless one, and has been an important element in Indian philosophy and thought. The *Rig-Veda*, one of our most ancient Scriptures, has enunciated that the human race is one and consists of all human beings. Implicit in this is the whole philosophy of humanism, understood in the West as freedom and fundamental unity of humankind.

Let this Conference be an occasion for holistic and integrated thinking and action on common problems. I understand that the agenda for the Conference includes a broad range of subjects that touch on crucial aspects of political, social and economic lives of people and nations. I am happy to see that problems relating to gender inequality, health and well-being of the elderly are going to be taken up. Equally urgent is the need to counter the growing use of violence for political ends, as well as to design policies which will foster greater respect for democratic values. May we use this opportunity, and the collective wisdom of all the distinguished participants, to strike a note of real hope for the well being of humankind.

Even while we are dealing with such momentous topics, it may not be out of place to remind ourselves that a Parliament can only be as useful and effective as its members choose to make it. Laws can be passed and business transacted but the manner in which this is done is extremely important to the people. The method of utilising Parliament's time to the best advantage, including the education of the people, needs to be constantly borne in mind because Parliament, above everything else, is a great educator by itself. In any event Parliament's proceedings should always be relevant to the lives of the people.

In conclusion, Mr. President and friends, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and memorable stay in our country and wish the Conference every success.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Speaker, Hon. President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Hon. Representative of the United Nations, Hon. Delegates, Ministers and Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in adding my voice to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished delegates assembled here in the 89th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Since the Conference of IPU last met in Delhi in 1969, both the world and India have changed a great deal. The nightmare of the cold war has ended and the freedom of peoples and the independence of nations have expanded on a spectacular scale. India, overcoming many a challenge to its unity and stability, has demonstrated its viability as a nation and its inner strength as a democracy and is engaged today in a massive liberalisation of its economy.

The preservation of democracy and the promotion of development and social justice for people have emerged as the principal themes of world today. There is a mood of triumphalism in the world in regard to liberal democracy. That is entirely justifiable. But it is a little difficult to go along with Francis Fukuyama in believing that we are witnessing today 'the end of man's ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western democracy as the final form of human development.'

One cannot believe in a doctrine of 'democratic Nirvana' as one could not believe in the enchanting vision of a Marxist Utopia. It is still in an inequal and unjust world that we are living. Mankind has to evolve further both institutionally and spiritually before we can say that freedom, justice and peace have been firmly established in the world. One must not forget the inter-war period both in Asia and Europe and also ignore several trends that have emerged contrary to the spirit and practice of democracy. The world can hardly rest on its ears believing smuggly that the struggle for democracy has been finally won. We have to work hard everywhere in the world for the preservation of freedom and democracy. There was an old theory that democracy was not good for everybody. It was assumed that it was suitable only for the industrialised and advanced countries and is unsuitable and unworkable in developing nations. In the old days of colonialism, the view was put forward that for a country like India, parliamentary representation was 'the wildest of imagination that ever entered the mind of man': it is surprising that there are serious political thinkers who have advanced the concept of a two-tier international order in which democracies of the developed countries form the top echelon and the democracies of the developing countries occupy the lower tier as marginalised nations. In the context of the growing North-South divide in particular, this is a somewhat dangerous theory for the final triumph of democracy in the world.

On the agenda of this Conference, there is a general debate on political economy and social situation in the world. I am sure that the distinguished delegates will, in their debate, take into account the fact of the struggle for democracy in the developing world, the special problems and characteristics, of that struggle and also the fact that one of the largest nations, India, has operated the Parliamentary System of Democracy ever

since its independence. If the Indian experience has any lesson to be drawn from it, it is that for the successes of parliamentary democracy, it is essential that freedom is integrally combined with social justice and the rights of liberalism with the imperatives of development. I believe that, as a matter of fact, even in the most highly developed countries, it is by responding to the social and economic demands and aspirations of the general masses that the democratic system registered its remarkable successes. At the moment of triumph for democracy in the world, I do hope that the developed countries will not stand in splendid and proud isolation to share their experiences and their prosperity with the poorer countries of the world. In this age of globalisation, can an international system long prevail half rich and half poor?

I understand that one of the item on the Agenda of this Conference is 'fostering of democratic values'. In order to foster these values some of the special problems affecting the developing countries ought to be presented to the public along with the general and universally valid principles of democracy. The specific problems of democracy in developing countries deserve wider and more sympathetic understanding. Freedom, liberty and fundamental rights of man are the very essence of democracy. We, in India have adopted them not just in our Constitution but in our daily practice within and outside our Parliament. But the basic conditions for the full operation of this liberal freedom are stability of the State and the sensation in society that the minimum social and economic needs of society are being met. That is why Mark Twain once observed and I quote:

> "America has three unspeakably precious gifts: freedom of speech, the freedom of Press and the good sense not to practice either."

Mark Twain had, of course, meant the people in America would not use their freedom in such a way as to subvert the fundamentals of the State and the peace for the realm. Such an understanding is even more necessary with regard to countries caught in the predicaments of a struggle for development and basic nation building. At the same time developing nations have to realise that it is not by binding enterprise hand and foot by bureaucratic rules and regulations that the developmental process can be speeded up and economic prosperity brought to the people.

An important item on the Agenda of this conference is the transparency in arms transfer through a global arms register notably as a means to check the growing use of violence to achieve political end. Such a register is the first step towards international control of this death dealing free trade in arms. Unfortunately, it is not only smuggling that affects transfer of arms, today it is done by countries for boosting their exports; for creating jobs for their people and for reasons of strategic advantage. Therefore, it seems to me that we have to go beyond establishing transparency in such transactions. We have to reach out towards complete and comprehensive disarmament.

The ending of the Cold War has not decreased the urgency of world disarmament. There are still nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the Power enough to blow up the world several times over. I believe that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has an important role to play in the disarmament. May I say that the developing countries are still waiting for the so called peace dividend!

The phenomenon of pervasive violence in society is recognised by all as a threat to peace. There is an integral link between narcotics, arms smuggling and the politics of terrorism. This unholy link has to be exposed to the full gaze of the public. Perhaps, it is not enough to tackle the production of illegal transit of narcotics; the demand side is equally important. In order to tackle it we have to influence the life style and cultural values of people, particularly of the youth in the more affluent countries.

The essence of democracy is a method of peace and persuasion. Can this be successful in the long run if there is suspicion founded on violence and a world order on nuclear and other weapons of destruction? It seems to me that the mankind has to turn to the method of non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi. The logical

culmination of the democratic theory is a practice of non-violence in human relations and the logical outcome of what has been called "Pax democratica" as a non-violent world order.

While I say this I am painfully aware that we in India have to practise it in oour own country while we tell the world about it. Parliament inspite of its raucousness and disorderly behaviour the world over is a forum for peaceful persuasion. At the bottom it is a non-violent forum. It is a forum for reconciling itself peacefully and non-violently. It has a subtle effect on those who function within these precincts. It blunts the edge of fundamental conflicts and brings out the human element in politics.

The IPU is a comprehensive organisation of this unique institution. I am sure that this Conference of IPU will have the effect of moulding world thinking on vital issues and will be of great benefit to us in India. May I wish the deliberations of this Conference all success.

Thank you.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA, PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Hon. Vice President of India, Hon. Prime Minister of India, Hon. Giani Zail Singhji, Hon. President of Inter-Parliamentary Council, Hon. Representative of the Secretary-General of United Nations, Hon. Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Hon. Governors, Hon. Chief Ministers, Hon. Speakers, Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members of Parliament, Shrimati Soniaji, Hon. Delegates, Shrimati Ranbir Kaur Dhillonji, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have immense pleasure in associating myself with this function for the inauguration of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in New Delhi.

I extend, on behalf of the Republic of India, Parliament, the Government and the people of India, my warm greetings and good wishes to all the distinguished delegates.

I should like to thank the Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha for his thoughtful invitation to me to be with you on this important occasion.

Friends, the Conference of Inter-Parliamentary Union in my view, is much more than an assemblage of representatives of countries having democratic political systems. The Conference should provide a clear focus on the cause of Democracy itself, the values, processes and goals of Democracy, the dangers: visible and invisible, encountered, and the needs of Democracy, that all of us, together, must serve to fulfil.

Central to our endeavours, is the task of building a better future — a life of dignity, creativity, prosperity and happiness for every human being in an atmosphere of harmony and positive advancement. The democratic approach arises from an awareness of the importance of the rights of the human being and an understanding of the truth that the general well-being of all can be attained only when human rights are accorded their due position in our polity.

During this century, political and constitutional developments in different countries around the world have highlighted two important aspects. There is increased realization that recognition of human rights and enforcement of human rights leads to stability in society and makes for upward mobility of weaker sections. There is fuller comprehension of the truth that a society that is both stable and progressive can be built only if human rights are recognised and enforced.

Secondly, the experience of political systems in which human rights were either denied or suppressed is that such systems, inevitably, failed; and the constitutional, legal and political aberrations under which these systems functioned proved to be both unjust and inexpedient.

The democratic outlook is strengthened by such awareness of experiences accumulated through history in different parts of the world.

It needs to be acknowledged that the cause of Democracy has been served by enlightened thinkers and leaders from various parts of the world, whose efforts resulted in definitive progress of enduring significance. Certain major events such as the Glorious Revolution which led to the presentation of the Bill of Rights of

1688 in Britain, the American War of Independence of 1776, the French Revolution of 1789 which led to the declaration of Human Rights, and the non-violent struggle for freedom in India culminating in India's Independence in 1947, must justifiably be perceived as integrated events in world history. These represent decisive advances in a global process taking humankind closer to the goal of an ideal human society. Today the democratic state should be seen as having an ideological framework resulting from the contributions of many. Every gain in the cause of democracy benefits all. Equally, every injury to this cause affects all.

There is an imminent need at this stage for us to realise that safeguarding the wherewithal of democracy is a common concern of humankind. Democratic theory has focussed extensively on the role of leadership, Parliamentary institutions, development indices, and the character of the State, for assessing and spelling out the needs of building a healthy democratic system. However, democratic theory, hitherto, in my view, has not adequately touched upon the role of external strategic influences in the making or marring of the democratic process. Very serious analysis and assessment is necessary of the effects of external influence.

The essential features of a democratic state, in terms of the recognition and enforceability of human freedoms, the basic element of trust and transparent openness of society these, the strengths of democracy, become sometimes its points of vulnerability. Elements exist which attempt to utilise the basic attributes of a democratic state to thwart and destroy its natural prospects, and cause havoc and ruin.

Friends, today we must realise that the problem of international terrorism, particularly terrorism sponsored from outside by another State should be seen as a grave threat to the cause of Democracy *per se*. It should not be viewed merely as an isolated and localised problem without larger ramifications. The deaths of innocent people and destruction to personal and public property wrought by such elements is a loss suffered by all. We must identify, condemn and eliminate such elements wherever these lurk as being the real outlaws of human society, menacing the very future of human civilisation.

All nations, all peoples share a common destiny. In this very hall, in 1947, the outstanding statesman and world leader, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (whose year of birth, 1889 is that of the IPU, also) had expressed an immutable truth when he spoke of the concept of One World. He had said: "Peace has been said to be indivisible; so in Freedom, so is Prosperity now, and so also is Disaster in this One World that can no longer be split into isolated fragments." He had articulated a doctrine of permanent relevance, and had reiterated an approach more valid than ever in regard to diverse tasks crucial to the progress and prosperity of nations around the world.

Perception of the need of genuine inter-dependence is critically important when we analyse, and attempt solutions to, the problems of poverty, disease, backwardness and violence in our One World.

Leaders attending the Conference can individually and collectively make a very important contribution by giving greater impetus to the new current of world opinion that genuine inter-dependence is expedient in terms of practical considerations of immediate policy as much as from an appreciation of the ultimate object of human endeavour.

Just as we address ourselves to enhancing the levels of consciousness and of political mobilisation to overcome inequality, underdevelopment, disease and conflict, we must come together, work together, to create greater awareness of the benefits that all stand to gain from genuine interdependence. We should do so particularly in the political, economic and technological spheres for Peace, Disarmament and Development, safeguarding our common environment, and combating common threats to our value-systems. The democratic states must lead and set the direction and the pace of world-wide effort in this respect. This should be regarded as a matter of crucial contingent choice for the good of humankind.

Distinguished delegates, you have a heavy agenda ahead of you for deliberation during your Conference. Hailing from different parts of the globe, from diverse cultures and climes, all of us are yet united in our

commitment to democratic values, to the democratic outlook and to a common vision of a better future for humankind. As you give consideration to important issues concerning Peace, Disarmament and Development tasks that are achievable through the democratic process, I am confident that the Conference will beam a powerful message to the world of our common determination to prove the supremacy of democratic ideals for human advancement, and our united resolve to fight sinister elements contriving to destroy all that we labour to create.

A verse, from literature recorded over six thousand years ago, comes to mind, our ancient sages have said in the Rg. Veda:

"सं गच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम्।
समानं मंत्रम् अभिमंत्रये वः समानेन वो हविषा जुहोमि।
समानी व आकुतिः समाना हृदयानि वः
समानम् अस्तु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासति।"

"Assemble, speak among yourselves as one,
be united in your minds,
partake together of common benefits,
May your aims be one and true,
May your assembly be synthesised, harmonious,
A common purpose do I lay before you;
address your endeavours unitedly,
Common be your aim, and your hearts united;
May you be of one mind that all
May gain true happiness."

With these words I have great pleasure in inaugurating the 89th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. May your deliberations be significant.

JAI HIND

The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma being conducted in a procession to the Central Hall of Parliament for the inaugural function of the 89th IPU Conference.

Inauguration of the 89th IPU Conference in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 12 April 1993.

Welcome Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall addressing the inaugural function.

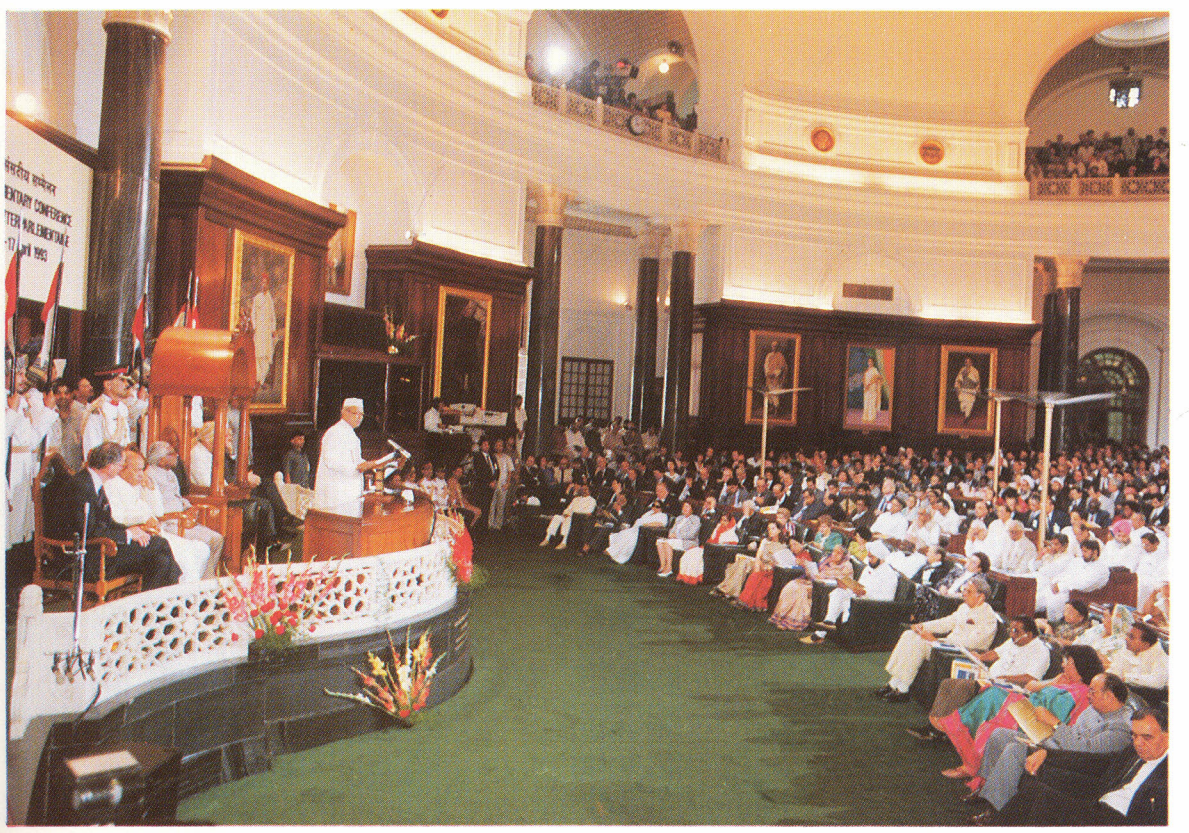
Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros-Ghali, reading out the message to the Conference from UN Secretary-General.

The Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao addressing the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall.

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressing the gathering.

A view of the distinguished gathering at the inauguration of the 89th IPU Conference in the Central Hall of Parliament.

Another view of the distinguished audience at the inauguration of the 89th IPU Conference in the Central Hall of Parliament.



The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma inaugurating the 89th IPU Conference.

The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma releasing the Book, "Triumph of Democracy".

The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma presenting the IPU Award to Smt. Ranbir Kaur Dhillon, widow of Late Dr. G.S. Dhillon.

CHAPTER V

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Inter-Parliamentary Council held its 152nd Session in the afternoon of 12 April and in the morning of 17 April, 1993. Sir Michael Marshall, MP and President of the Council was in the Chair. At its first sitting, the Council adopted the Agenda proposed by the Executive Committee and decided unanimously to add to it a supplementary item on "Support to the International Year of the Family" proposed by the Women Parliamentarians. A draft resolution submitted by the Women Parliamentarians on this subject was also adopted without a vote. The Council, thereafter, discussed mainly the following items and took decisions thereon:

Membership of the IPU

The Council decided with acclamation to affiliate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, as well as those of Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Nigeria and Slovenia. It also decided to lift suspension order imposed earlier on Algeria and Peru and admit Latin American Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as Associate members which hitherto enjoyed observer status. The affiliation of the National Group of the Central African Republic was, however, suspended as no representative institution was in existence there. As a result of the aforesaid decisions, the Union's membership shot up to 124 National Groups and three Associate members.

Elections and Appointments

On the proposal of the delegation of Australia, the Council decided by acclamation at its first sitting to propose for election as President of the 89th Conference, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group. It also unanimously decided at its second sitting to propose to the Conference that Mr. A Fosset (France) be elected to the Executive Committee to complete the term of office (until September 1993) of Mr. Y. Tavernier who is no longer a member of Parliament, and that Mrs. T. Darsoyo (Indonesia) serve on the Committee to complete the term of office (until September 1995) of Mr. M. Darusman who had also ceased to be a member of Parliament since the time of the Stockholm session (September 1992).

The Council unanimously elected at its second sitting Mr. W. McLean (Canada) as a substitute member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians for a five-year term. It also unanimously appointed Mr. B.A. Godana (Kenya), representing the African group, the Earl of Lindsay (U.K.), representing the Twelve-Plus group; and Mr. N.A. Sorkoh (Kuwait), representing the Arab group on the Committee on Environment. The new members will serve for a five year term.

Interpretation of the word "Parliament"

At its sitting on 17 April, the Council took note of the Executive Committee's recommendations on this subject. Besides, noting the conditions spelt out in Article 3 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which have to be met in order for an applicant to be eligible for membership of the Union, the Council endorsed

the Executive Committee's interpretation of the word "Parliament", according to which the institution concerned must, at a minimum, be an assembly endowed according to domestic law with legislative powers and oversight of the Executive.

Relations with Inter-Parliamentary Organizations

The Council took note of the Executive Committee's report on this subject which stated that the relations between inter-parliamentary organizations and the Union can be seen to operate on three levels: status, substantive cooperation and working relations. It endorsed the Committee's classification of inter-parliamentary organizations and decided that the Union should continue its present policy of encouraging and establishing relations only with those inter-parliamentary organizations which have an official status and whose general objectives and working methods are shared by the Union.

The Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation that bilateral cooperation agreements be concluded between official inter-parliamentary organizations in all regions of the world and the Union, while expressing the desire that the Union's relations with such organizations should to the extent possible, always be based on the principle of reciprocity and reflect the global role of the Union. The Council also approved for signature the draft memorandum on cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the IPU which had been negotiated between the Secretariats of the two organizations.

IPU Policy and involvement in Electoral Processes

The Council took note of the Executive Committee's report on this subject and endorsed its recommendation that "the Union continue its present policy whereby it seeks to ensure that it is present at national elections and referenda which are organized, supervised or verified by the United Nations". Welcoming the growing cooperation with the United Nations in this field, the Council endorsed the Committee's different recommendations for a strengthened involvement by the Union in electoral processes and unanimously adopted the resolution prepared by the Executive Committee in this regard.

Acting upon a proposal of the Executive Committee, the Council decided unanimously to send a mission to observe the elections organized by the United Nations in Cambodia from 23 to 28, May 1993.

Financing IPU's Activities

At its second sitting, having heard the report of the Auditors presented by Mrs. E. Poptodorova (Bulgaria), the Council approved the accounts of the Union for 1992 and approved the Secretary General's financial administration for that year.

The Council noted that it was the Union's current practice to borrow from the Working Capital Fund to compensate for unpaid contributions, and at the same time to allocate any year-end credit balance to finance various activities. It also considered that in future only actual receipts should be used in establishing the income and expenditure account and that advances from the Working Capital Fund should be strictly limited to the sum required to make up for any shortfall between actual receipts and expenditure.

It took note of the need subsequently to amend Rule 6.2(c) of the Financial Regulations to codify the revised practice in this respect.

On the proposal of the Executive Committee, the Council decided to reinforce the Union's reserves by:

(i) Allocating the credit balance of Swiss Franc 391,982.77 from the 1992 accounts to the Working Capital Fund and by transferring a sum of Swiss Franc 100,000 from the Special Account for the replacement of staff in the event of sick leave to the Working Capital Fund;

(ii) Determining the minimum liquidity level of the Working Capital Fund henceforth at 12% of the budget, for which purpose appropriate replenishments should be foreseen in the 1994 and 1995 budgets.

With a view to ensuring better financing of the Union, the Council felt the need to amend Article 4.2 of the Statutes to make National Groups liable for suspension if they are three years in arrears in the payment of their contributions. The Council also proposed to amend Rule 5.4 of the Financial Regulations so that annual contributions would be payable by 31 March of each year.

Amendment of Financial Regulations

On the proposal of the Executive Committee, the Council decided to amend Rule 5.8 of Financial Regulations so that National Groups which join the Union at the time of the Second Annual Conference will be required to pay only half of their assessed contribution for that year.

IPU's role in the fields of Environment and Development

At its second sitting, the Council heard the report of Mr. S. Holemark (Norway), the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Environment and Development (Brasilia, 23-27 November, 1992).

Several delegations underscored the responsibility of Parliaments in implementing the recommendations of the Conference and the need to report to the IPU Secretariat on measures taken to that end.

The Council endorsed the results and recommendations of the Brasilia Conference, and adopted to that effect a draft resolution which, in particular, requested the Committee on Environment to formulate proposals for the Union's future action in the fields of environment and development.

Human Rights issue of Parliamentarians

At the Council's meeting on 17 April, 1993, Mr. H. Solari Yrigoyen (Argentina), Chairperson of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, described the work done by the Committee at its 61st Session held in New Delhi from 11 to 15 April, 1993.

The Committee had held six meetings in camera during which it studied the individual cases of 130 serving or former parliamentarians in 14 countries of all regions of the world. After a thorough study of the allegations and information before it, the Committee submitted to the Council a report and recommendations concerning the cases of 105 serving or former parliamentarians in eight countries Bulgaria, Columbia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Myanmar, Togo and Turkey. On the Committee's proposal, the Council adopted without a vote resolutions on them.

Situation in Cyprus and Middle East

At its sitting on 17 April, the Council heard the report of the "Committee to monitor the situation in Cyprus," presented by its Chairman, Dr. Michael Clark (United Kingdom). The Council endorsed the Committee's desire to meet in Canberra in September, to examine information provided by the representatives of the two Cypriot communities and by the National Groups of the three guarantor powers — Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The Council also heard the report of the "Committee on Middle East Questions", presented by Mr. M.A. Martinez (Spain). Taking note of the various amendments to the written report presented by several delegations, the Council approved the revised text.

In doing so, the Council also agreed with the Committee's recommendation that membership should continue to be on an *ad personam* basis and that Mr. Y. Tavernier (France) be replaced by a member of the French National Group. Mr. J. Baumel was likewise appointed.

Plan of Action by the Union to correct the present imbalance between men and women in political life

A Parity Working Group was set up by the Council to draw up a plan of action to correct the present imbalance between men and women in political life. This Group consists of Mr. N. Nyashanu (Zimbabwe) and Mrs. L. Fal Diagne (Senegal) representing sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. A. Alonso (Uruguay) and Mrs. E. Calderon de Zuleta (Bolivia) representing Latin America, Mr. R.S. Roco (Philippines) and Mrs. T. Darsoyo (Indonesia) representing Asia and the Pacific, Mr. S. Khaddour (Syrian Arab Republic) and Mrs. K. Karrar (Sudan) representing the Arab countries, Mr. E. Helle (Finland) and Mrs. R. Simmen (Switzerland) representing the member countries of the Twelve Plus Group, and Mr. J. Wiatr (Poland) and Mrs. E. Poptodorova (Bulgaria) representing the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It will meet in Canberra on 11 September, 1993.

CHAPTER VI

AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference began its business session in the Convention Hall of Hotel Ashok in the afternoon of 12 April, 1993.

On behalf of the Council, Sir Michael Marshall, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, proposed the name of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, as President of the 89th Conference.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil (India) was elected President by acclamation

The President thanked the delegates for the memorable honour bestowed on him by them and observed that the success of the Conference would depend on their cooperation. He then requested the delegations to submit the names of their members whom they had designated as Vice-President, if they had not done earlier.*

The business session of the Conference thereafter witnessed lively discussions on some issues of topical concern.

Transparency in arms transfers through a global arms register, notably as a means to check the growing use of violence to achieve political objectives

Discussions on the subject, "Transparancy in Arms Transfers through a Global Arms Register, notably as a Means to Check the Growing Use of Violence to achieve Political Objectives", dominated the Plenary Sittings of the Conference on 13 April, 1993. A large number of participants from across the globe, representing their National Parliaments, expressed their concern and anxiety on the menace of arms race and armaments and suggested additional measures besides extending support to the resolution of the United Nations for setting up a UN Register on Conventional Arms.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. E.B. Smith (Denmark) said that UN resolutions Nos. 46 and 47, establishing a register of conventional arms, had created an instrument of preventive diplomacy and marked the first step towards international peace and security. He added, it was not clear how the register would function; but at the very least it would bring a high level of transparency into conventional arms transfers.

Addressing the Plenary, the Indian delegate, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee observed that the concept of an International Arms Register was not new; the League of Nations used to publish an annual Register on exports and imports of arms but that exercise ended with the outbreak of the Second World War. The UN Arms Register was an important first step in the direction of disarmament but it was imperative to ensure that the Register should be non-discriminatory and that it attracted universal adherence.

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* According to clause (3) of Article 12 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union : "The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the National Groups represented at the Conference."

Participating in the deliberations, Dr. M. Clark (United Kingdom) said that the arms registers alone were not enough. A system of universal inspection would still be needed and it would have to apply to the build-up of conventional arms as well as to stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

Mr. M.A. Fosset (France) advocated that any measure contributing to greater transparency in arms transfers should be supported. He pointed out that a Register of conventional weapons was a step in the right direction, although much greater efforts had to be undertaken with a view to achieving transparency.

The delegate from Egypt, Mr. K. Al-Shazly said that for ensuring transparency in arms transfers, it was necessary to compile a register of arms transfers in conformity with the United Nations General Assembly resolution and it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to ensure respect for that provision. He further said that the United Nations resolution could, of course, only be implemented gradually and it dealt solely with conventional weapons. Steps, could, therefore be taken to make the register more exhaustive by including information on the manufacture of weapons, including chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Participating in the deliberations, Mr. A. Tamayo Mendez (Cuba) said that transparency in the field of arms transfers was not sufficient in itself. It was also necessary to find peaceful solutions to regional conflicts, which implied that the political will had to be shown by the parties involved. The use of force, intefference in the internal affairs of States, and poverty and hunger in the Third World had to be eliminated. True security could only exist in a world without hegemony in which everyone had the right to full development.

In his speech, Mr. T. Sindikubwabo (Rwanda) emphasized that transparency was absolutely necessary in order to put a stop to so pernicious a process which only helped to prolong futile and destructive wars. Of the various possible means available, he attached particular importance to the introduction of a comprehensive network for monitoring the arms trade. The establishment under the aegis of the United Nations of an arms Register, would constitute a first step in that direction.

Mr. C. Becerra (Argentina) said that in developing countries, the reduction of arms expenditure was a *sine qua non* for progress. In that connection, the Register of arms transfers kept by the United Nations could only have a beneficial effect because if every country knew the level of armaments of its neighbour, excessive counter-defence measures would not be needed. He also hoped that the Register would help combat the illegal arms traffic.

The delegate from USA, Mr. E. Faleomavaega pointed out that the United States had been the original co-sponsor of the proposed resolution put to the United Nations General Assembly to establish a Register of Conventional arms transfers. He said that the United States had always been committed to the reduction of tensions and prevention of armed conflicts throughout the world.

Mr. M. Sellami, the delegate from Tunisia, noted that while it was always preferable to resolve conflicts by negotiations, the use of force was regrettably frequent. In order to combat the tendency to violence, strict control of the arms trade was essential. Such was the aim that the United Nations had set itself, and there had been general approval for the same. He suggested that an Arms Register should be established and kept up-to-date by an independent body.

Mr. Peng Qing Yuan (China) emphasised that China had always maintained that there should be a fair, reasonable, comprehensive and balanced approach to effective disarmament and arms control.

Mr. A. Peskunov (Russian Federation) reminded delegates that the recent transformations in his country had overturned the traditional defence establishment and arms sales networks. He also made a mention about the new arms policy being formulated by Russia. The Register had to be an important component of this policy and could be extended to cover information which it did not yet include, such as munitions.

Ms. I. Aykut (Turkey) said the Register of conventional arms was a valuable way of keeping arms transfers under international review at a time when the arms trade seemed to have increased enormously.

Mr. R. Cohen (Israel) welcomed the concept of the Register but did not believe that voluntary decisions by recipient countries would be sufficient. Arms suppliers needed to exercise restraint by putting a ceiling on the quantity and quality of the weapons they exported. He added that in the Middle Eastern context, the Register was a positive initiative, though not an exclusive one.

In his speech, Mr. A. Abdullah (Palestine) observed that the application of a universal and non-discriminatory principle in relation to the Register would help avoid an arms race. He also suggested that punitive measures should be introduced against any country that violated or impeded the objectives of the proposal.

Mr. W. Wirhrt (Suriname) called upon all Member States to pay close attention to the implementation of the UN resolution in their respective countries.

Mrs. E. Leonhard (Germany) emphasized that conventional thinking had to be revised so as to restrict the world-wide arms trade. The UN Register was an important first step but was not enough; there was also a need to tighten policies on the control of arms exports. In this respect, parliamentarians have a responsibility to create a climate in which arms exports could be outlawed as a scourge of mankind.

Participating in the deliberations, Shri Inder Jit, MP (India) said that the world needed to strive towards comprehensive, genuine and universal disarmament, without any discrimination. Proliferating poverty posed the biggest ever threat to lasting peace and security. The need of the hour was to seriously move towards NPP or Non-Proliferation of Poverty.

At the conclusion of the debate, Mr. T. Vladislav (Romania) defined the practical measures that should be taken to control arms and their transfer as follows: the organization of regional and sub-regional conferences on arms and technology transfers, the opening of a Register by the United Nations covering all countries, tighter control of arms transfers for all countries involved in conflicts, greater control over the illicit export and import of weapons, and the compilation of information on the ways in which arms were transferred.

Others who participated in the deliberations were: Mr. L. Lara (Angola), Mr. J. San Millan (Argentina), Mr. F. Mrkvicka (Austria), Mr. Van Wambeke (Belgium), Mr. I. Pinheiro (Brazil), Mr. V. Gotsev (Bulgaria), Mr. P. Akun Fomun (Cameroon), Mrs. E. Anderson (Canada), Ms. M. Clancy (Canada), Mr. A. Fonseca (Cape Verde), Mr. H. Rojo (Chile), Mr. T. Ribera (Chile), Mr. A. Chrysospomou (Cyprus), Mr. D. Theodorou (Cyprus), Mr. K. Moheiddin (Egypt), Mr. H. Kemppainen (Finland), Mr. J.E. Enestam (Finland), Mr. G. Muller (Germany), Mr. A. Lendakis (Greece), Mr. I. Pottakis (Greece), Mr. G. Papp (Hungary), Mr. G. Haarde (Iceland), Mr. Phm Siahaan (Indonesia), Mr. S. Dharsoeki (Indonesia), Mr. M.Q. Kia (Iran), Mr. S. Rajaee Khorasani (Iran), Mrs. M. Hamudi (Iraq), Mr. S. Treacy (Ireland), Mr. S. Goto (Japan), Mr. A. Salah (Jordan), Mr. B.A. Godana (Kenya), Mr. Kim Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Se-il Sonn (Republic of Korea), Mr. S. Al Ajmi (Kuwait), Mr. K. Pholsena (Laos), Mr. V. Birkavs (Latvia), Mr. J.N. Gwaikolo (Liberia), Mr. R. Lau Hoi Chew (Malaysia), Ms. L. Istrati (Moldova), Mr. M. Katjioungua (Namibia), Mr. M.L. Thunet (Nepal), Mrs. L. Rempt-Kalmans De Jongh (Netherlands), Mr. I.S. Madriz (Nicaragua), Mr. S. Verdal (Norway), Mr. H. Akhtar Khan (Pakistan), Mr. M.K. Achakzai (Pakistan), Mr. R. B. Albano (Philippines), Mr. J. Wiatr (Poland), Mr. J.G. Amara (Portugal), Mr. V. Babiuc (Romania), Mr. A. Casanovas (Spain), Mr. J. Barreiro (Spain), Mr. S. Ericson (Sweden), Mr. G. Stucky (Switzerland), Mr. M.P. Aguet (Switzerland), Mr. C. Essayed (Syria), Mr. B. Oyat (Uganda), Mr. A. Al Muhairibi (United Arab Emirates), Mr. G. Foulkes (United Kingdom), Mr. C. Cassina (Uruguay), Mr. M. Radulovic (Yugoslavia), Mr. M.C. Sata (Zambia), Mr. A.T. Mangwende (Zimbabwe), Mr. H. Soell (Assembly of the Western European Union).

Following the debate on this subject, in which 86 Speakers took the floor, the 20 draft resolutions submitted by National Groups* and the Andean Parliament were referred to the Ist Committee (Committee on Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament) for study and report.

At its meeting held in the morning of 14 April, the Committee appointed a Drafting Committee comprising representatives of the National Groups of the following countries: Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Philippines, Suriname and Switzerland. The text which emerged from the Drafting Committee's deliberations was amended by the Ist Committee which examined it on 16 April.

At its final plenary sitting in the afternoon of 17 April, 1993, the Conference heard the report of the Ist Committee, presented by Mrs. E. Anderson (Canada), and adopted the following text of the resolution without a vote.**

Text of the Resolution

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Considering:

(a) That the keynote of the evolving new world order must be understanding and detente;

(b) That the use of violence is contrary to universal moral standards and incompatible with the maintenance of peace throughout the world;

(c) That the establishment of a control mechanism for arms purchases requires broad political will;

(d) That the growing interdependence between States can only be strengthened in a climate of fraternity and conciliation;

Realizing that excessive arms build-ups are one of the causes of destabilization and thus pose a threat to regional and international peace and security,

Aware of the deleterious effects of illicit arms dealing, particularly on countries' internal stability and on respect for human rights,

Recognizing that it is essential to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and, without discriminating, the transfer of advanced military-oriented technologies that could enable countries to manufacture such weapons,

Bearing in mind the damaging effects of excessive arms build ups on world social and economic development, and the beneficial consequences that reduced arms acquisition could have for the economic betterment and social development of all peoples,

Pointing out that by strengthening mutual trust, greater openness and transparency could help to invalidate the conviction that more and newer arms are continually necessary,

Believing that greater mutual trust among nations would result in decreased tension and create a world climate more conducive to peace at the regional and international levels,

Noting with satisfaction the current progress in developing an atmosphere in which just and lasting solutions to problems of a military nature can be found, and *noting further* that maximum advantage should be taken of this opportunity, without delay,

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* Twenty draft resolutions were submitted by the National Groups of Argentina, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Moldova, the Nordic Groups, Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuala and Zimbabwe, as well as by the Andean Parliament.

** The Syrian delegation subsequently announced that his country was not a party to the decision on the resolution since it did not refer to the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons nor to the right of countries to import the weapons indispensable for their defence.

Aware in this connection of the key role that parliamentarians can play in their countries, decision-making processes, of their influence on their fellow citizens and of their desire to work towards the creation of an international order in which every country's military aims would be more open and transparent, with a view to facilitating the advent of peace and security at the regional and international levels,

Recognizing the inalienable right of all countries to defend themselves individually or collectively in the event of armed attack, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and the right of nations to seek aid and assistance from other countries to ensure respect for that principle,

Deeply concerned at illicit arms trafficking which adversely affects stability and is directly and indirectly linked to acts of terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and the activities of mercenaries in various parts of the world,

Welcoming:

(a) The provisions of the UN Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons of 10 April, 1981;

(b) The conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Disarmament (Bonn, May 1990), which aimed, *inter alia* to establish within the United Nations' framework a register of international arms transfers (paragraph 22 of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference);

(c) The conclusions of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (Malaga, June 1992), which affirm that transparency and openness in military activities can contribute to establishing trust and strengthening security and stability;

(d) United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December, 1991 ("Transparency in Armaments"), the annex to which provides for the establishment, with effect from 1 January, 1992, of a Register of Conventional Arms;

Realizing that greater transparency in international arms transfers, through extension of the Register's scope, contributes substantially to establishing security and confidence between States and to attenuating mistrust and misunderstanding, thereby averting the consequences thereof,

Convinced that transparency in international arms transfers should be pursued on the basis of undiminished security for all States,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/52 L of 15 December, 1992 endorsing the recommendations of the report by a UN panel of experts on the functioning and possible further development of the Register,

Recognizing the need for and the duty of every State to report its arms transfers to this Register:

1. *Calls on* all States to exercise effective control over their arms and military equipment as well as their exports and imports of arms so as to prevent their transfer to parties that engage in illicit arms trafficking;

2. *Urges* Governments to establish, if they consider it useful, their own panels to study their domestic military industries, consider methods and means of controlling their arms exports more effectively and formulate measures to make their arms transfers more open and transparent;

3. *Asks* all Parliaments and Governments to support conversion efforts and to develop special programmes for industrial conversion from arms production to the production of civilian goods;

4. *Invites* all Parliaments and Governments exchange information on their respective policies, laws and administrative measures concerning the export and import of arms, and to ensure co-ordination with the competent United Nations bodies;

5. *Calls on* Governments to cooperate fully in the establishment of the Register of arms transfers and supply the Secretary-General of the United Nations with annual reports on their imports and exports of arms, and to make available information on their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies;

6. *Encourages* parliamentarians to bring pressure to bear on their respective Governments to participate actively in the maintenance of the Register, and to promote acceptance for the concept of openness and transparency in the field of military activities;

7. *Stresses* that the active participation of all States is a prerequisite for the Register to operate as effectively as possible and provide maximum transparency in arms transfers;

8. *Considers* that reporting to the Register should be compulsory, and that, accordingly, the possibility should be examined of UN inspection and some form of sanction being imposed in the event of failure to report or in case of false information;

9. *Emphasizes* the significance of the current consideration of the item on transparency in armaments and, more specifically, issues relating to the active participation of States in the Register and its effective operation, by the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva;

10. *Recommends* that Parliaments and Governments lend whatever assistance they deem appropriate to the UN Secretary-General with respect to the work being done by the panel of technical experts on formulating the technical procedures necessary for the effective operation of the Register;

11. *Calls on* parliamentarians the world over to follow these issues actively with a view to encouraging, provided that the principle of universality and non-discrimination on which the Register must be based is observed, more in-depth discussion of the Register and of possibilities of extending its scope by including further categories of arms and equipment, as well as military holdings and procurement through national production;

12. *Recommends* that all parties involved in ensuring the proper operation of the Register should take account of the need to:

    (a) Reach agreement on a global and universally recognized concept of the Arms transfers to be included in the Register;

    (b) Ensure that the inclusion in the Register of aspects concerning technology and know-how will not impose restrictions on the freedom of developing countries to acquire high technology;

    (c) Establish universal, global and non-discriminatory criteria that ensure standardized data and information;

    (d) Examine the possibility of including in the Register, in addition to exports and imports, the production of arms, including nuclear and radioactive materials and their transfer;

    (e) Include in the Register all data and information on arms seized by Governments from terrorist groups, drug traffickers, organized crime gangs, mercenaries, etc., in order to contribute to combating illicit arms trafficking;

    (f) Estabilish measures for the verification of the data and information provided by States for the Register;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to obtain information from the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning development in the field of transparency in arms transfers and to report thereon to National Groups, and *calls on* the governing bodies of the Union to examine, in the light of this first experience, whether it is worthwhile to pursue this endeavour.

The implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values

The importance of education and culture in fostering greater respect for democratic values can hardly be over emphasised. It is more so at a time when there is a resurgence of democracy all along. The existence of the structures and institutions of parliamentary democracy are not enough to make democracy sustainable and lasting. Democracy is not only a form of Government but also a way of life. Parliamentarians being people's representatives have a crucial role in initiating and moulding legislations aimed at realising these goals to strengthen representative parliamentary institutions and inculcating democratic values.

The remarkable developments in the fields of science and technology, especially in the audio-visual media, offer greater challenges as well as opportunities. While these developments enable us to disseminate education to all, they are also potent threats to indigenous culture, if not adequately made use of. In such a situation, it is incumbent on Governments and peoples to take steps to preserve and protect the cultural identity of the people. While cross-fertilisation of ideas and cultures are always welcome, these should not corrode and corrupt the rich cultural heritage of the people. These issues of topical concern were discussed at the three plenary sittings (morning and afternoon of 14 April and morning of 15 April) of the Conference. Participating in the discussions, delegates drawn from different national Parliaments called for developing primary education, vocational education and education for women. They also stressed that there should be equal opportunities besides laying emphasis on the crucial importance of civic education to foster greater respect for democratic values.

Voicing their concern regarding the need for securing education for all as a base for democracy, the participants elaborated on the measures taken in their respective countries in this direction. The need to preserve national cultures while promoting greater respect for democratic institutions was also underlined. Delegates from Afro-Asian countries especially called for the recognition and strengthening of their indigenous cultural traditions.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. M. Berson (France) stressed the educational value of this debate and said that in France, democracy resided primarily in the concept of secularism — the basis of the educational system. French schools therefore, provided a wide-ranging course of civic instructions intended to acquaint pupils with the principles of democracy and the Republic as well as human rights, together with national institutions and their mode of operation. At the same time, knowledge should not remain theoretical but should on the contrary tend towards practical action. In that respect, he stated that all were responsible for the transmission of democratic values, since the future of children and thus of the whole world was at stake.

Addressing the plenary, the Indian delegate, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, MP described the various provisions enshrined in the Constitution and several measures undertaken by the Government of India to ensure that educational and cultural policies fostered greater respect for democratic values. Reiterating India's continued commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants which recognised the right of all to education, Smt. Patil observed that the cultural dimensions of development should be recognised and incorporated in worldwide development strategies.

Shri Sudarshan Ray Choudhury (India) particularly highlighted the mass literacy campaign currently underway in the country. He observed that to make democracy meaningful, universal education in tune with our socio-cultural ethos was an urgent necessity.

Mr. Xu Jialu (China) said that the problem of culture was related to that of civilization and that the development of teaching was the primary factor in the evolution of civilizations. In awareness of this fact, China had set out the right to education in its Constitution. He emphasized that his country attached particular importance to adult education and further training, and noted that priority was also given to higher education.

Mr. S.H.S. Kazmi (Pakistan) stated that the democratic institutions in Pakistan functioned through popular participation to achieve consensus among the masses on all significant issues. He reminded the Conference that Pakistan was a signatory to the UNESCO resolutions which protected culture as a means of national development.

While emphasizing the importance of this item of agenda for developing countries, Mr. M. Abdellah (Egypt) suggested that the discussion on the role of education in the development of democracy had to be placed in the political, economic and social context of each country. While the success in the process of development could only be assured through the full participation of the people, the educational process had the objective of strengthening national values and promoting the political participation of the population.

In her speech, Mrs. E. Peacock from United Kingdom stressed the importance of educating women at all levels — from pre-school to University so that the traditional culture is blended with change. She reminded the Conference that if a woman was educated, the whole family was educated. Each Government should set up a fund, administered on a non-party basis to be used for assisting women to enter public life.

Mr. P. Tabata Guzman (Venezuela) called upon the Governments of all States and particularly those of the Third World, to give priority in their attention to the planning of educational policies. He suggested that prompt action should be taken in the matter with the assistance of the industrialised countries and UNESCO.

In his speech, the delegate from Zimbabwe, Mr. N. Nyashanu emphasized that the Governments and Parliaments should develop educational and cultural policies in order to foster respect for democratic values and, ultimately, to ensure successful democratic Government. The need to institute and nurture an educational system that was conducive to the pursuit of effective democracy could not be overemphasized, he added.

Mr. M. Colston from Australia suggested that it was incumbent on all those who embraced democratic ideas to ensure that democracy survived. In this context, the implementation of educational and cultural policies which were designed to foster greater respect for democratic values was vital for all nations.

Ms. M. Gojkovic (Yugoslavia) stressed the role of education and culture in the development of every contemporary civilized society. She suggested that all countries should begin at the national level with policies which would contribute to this process and thereby enhance the well-being of all peoples. Parliamentarians had a major responsibility towards achieving this common objective.

Participating in the deliberations, the delegate from Chile, Mr. E. Larre Assenjo stated that improvements only in the educational system would allow democracy to progress. Mr. Assenjo also paid his tributes to the memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution of India, on his birth anniversary.

Participating in the deliberations, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam) said that the recent scientific and technological innovations offered the prospect of a more stable and prosperous life, but in order to realise this, it was necessary to promote better education and cultural activities for everyone. She added that education was a necessary condition for the development of greater democracy.

Mr. J.C. Sombo Yapi (Cote d'Ivoire) said that the vast majority of the population of the African continent wished to be governed by a democratic regime that guaranteed human rights. However, there was no single and unchanging model for democracy and very nation had to find its own way of building up its institutions.

While supporting the idea of educational and cultural policies designed to foster democratic values, Ms. K. Osseni (Benin) considered that democracy was impossible unless the citizens were aware of how laws

were made, what they contained and to whom they applied. A well educated man was a citizen, a badly educated man was no more than a subject. In that respect political parties had a decisive role to play, since it was their duty to make everyone aware of the nature of the rule of law.

Mr. J. Claudio (Philippines) said that the protection of fundamental rights and liberties afforded by democracy was made possible by compulsory and total education. Thus, in aiming to establish global democracy, parliamentarians should not be complacent; they should instead be enthusiastic and vigorous in their promotion of education.

At the conclusion of the debate, Mrs. M. Ryynanen (Finland) said that democracy could only be achieved by learning; the key to its establishment was, therefore, education for all. She emphasized the importance of the media in the promotion of democratic education and expressed her hope that the idea of non-violence propounded by Mahatma Gandhi should be followed universally.

Others who participated in the deliberations included: Mr. L. Leon (Argentina), Mr. J. Hochtl (Austria), Mrs. R. Mahmud (Bangladesh), Mr. S.R., Ali (Bangladesh), Mr. A. Tevoedjre (Benin), Mr. J. Inchauste Zelaya (Bolivia), Mr. J. Calmon (Brazil), Mrs. E. Poptodorova (Bulgaria), Mr. J. Djona (Cameroon), Mrs. E. Cochrane (Canada), Ms. S. Maheu (Canada), Mrs. Z. Benitez De Mendoza (Cuba), Mr. A. Philippou (Cyprus), Mr. S. El Din Noor (Egypt), Ms. M.A. Houangni Ambourque (Gabon), Mrs. D. Odendahl (Germany), Mr. H.J. Fuchtel (Germany), Mr. A. Lendakis (Greece), Mr. M. Vasarhelyi (Hungary), Mr. S. Gestsson (Iceland), Mrs. I. Dahlan (Indonesia), Mr. Krissantono (Indonesia), Mr. A Zadsar (Iran), Mr. B. Jafari (Iran), Mr. H.A. Aziz (Iraq), Mr. S.S. Omar ((Iraq), Mr. D. Norris (Ireland), Mr. K. Yamada (Japan), Mr. H. Shiyab (Jordan), Mr. J.R. Kiluta (Kenya), Mr. Kim Rak Won (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of -) Mr. S.H. Cho (Republic of Korea -), Mr. Nasir A. Sarkhoh (Kuwait), Mr. K. Pholsena (Laos), Mr. W. Johnson (Liberia), Mr. Rahim Bin Baba (Malaysia), Mr. H. Teran Teran (Mexico), Mrs. A. Istrati (Moldova), Ms. F. Costa (Mozambique), Mr. J. Hoebeb (Namibia), Mr. A. Narasingh (Nepal), Mrs. T. Netelenbos (Netherlands), Mr. B. Gregory (New Zealand), Mrs. A. Blattmann (Norway), Mr. D.M. Rehman (Pakistan), Mr. R. Roco (Philippines), Mr. E. Rzepka (Poland), Mr. R. Bender (Poland), Mr. F. Correira Alfonso (Portugal), Mrs. R. Estrella (Portugal), Mr. I. Solcanu (Romania), Mr. T. Sindikubwabo (Rwanda), Mrs. A. Rubiales (Spain), Mr. F. Khalil (Sudan), Mrs. E. Johansson (Sweden), Mr. J.J. Gonzalez Chavarri (Spain), Mrs. M. Jonsson (Sweden), Mr. A Keller (Switzerland), Mrs. R. Simmen (Switzerland) Mr. M. Salameh (Syria), Mr. H. Khelil (Tunisia), Mr. K. Genc (Turkey) Mrs. M. Matembe (Uganda), Mr. R. Al Mazraoui (United Arab Emirates), Mr. S. Bell (United Kingdom), Mrs. C. Beramendi (Uruguay), Mr. L. Lev (Uruguay), Mr. H.M. Kabika (Zambia), Mrs. L. Fischer (Council of Europe), Mr. S. Hariharan (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), Mr. J. Kingston (UNESCO), and Mrs. E. Watanabe (UNICEF).

Following the debate in which 81 Speakers took the floor, the 13 draft resolutions submitted by the National Groups* were referred to the IVth Committee (Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Environment). At its sitting held on 15 April, the Committee appointed a Drafting Committee comprising representatives of the 10 following countries: Egypt, France, Iceland, Indonesia, India, Netherland, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. The Drafting Committee took the United Kingdom's draft resolution as a working basis and drew on the other drafts as well. It then adopted without a vote the consolidated text that had taken it six hours to elaborate.

At its sitting on 17 April, the Committee adopted without a vote the entire draft resolution presented by the Drafting Committee.

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* Thirteen Draft Resolution were submitted by the National Groups of Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and the Andean Parliament.

The Conference at its final plenary sitting (afternoon of 17 April), heard the report of the IV the Committee, presented by Mrs. E. Peacock (United Kingdom) and adopted without a vote the draft resolution prepared by that Committee. The text of resolution adopted is as follows:

Text of the Resolution

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Welcoming the progress which has been made in many countries towards establishing democracy, and *recognizing* that democracy is a political system wherein power is shared among citizens, and rulers at all levels are freely and periodically elected and are accountable to the people, and that it is for every country to build democracy in conformity with its historical traditions, socio-cultural identity and fundamental ideals,

Underlining that sustainable economic and social development requires broadly based democratic participation in political, economic and social systems, and *recalling* the initiatives of the United Nations and other international bodies to address the wider issues of social progress and the alleviation of poverty,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights is an integral part of, and an essential basis for, the development of human resources in all countries,

Concerned that inequalities in society tied to an individual's religion, race, colour or sex, are detrimental to democratic life and practice, and *affirming* the right of every citizen to be educated and trained to become literate and economically productive,

Recalling the declarations and resolutions of international and multilateral bodies reaffirming democratic values and fundamental freedoms, especially the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as United Nations General Assembly resolutions 34/170 and 35/191 concerning the right to education and resolution 41/187 proclaiming the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Referring to the Declaration on "Education for All" (1990) made at a world conference organized by UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank, and *bearing in mind* UNESCO's plan to link international education with human rights education as well as the UNESCO sponsored 44th International Conference on Education in 1994,

Recognizing that education is a prerequisite for the acceptance and further development of democratic values in a process involving the participation of all citizens,

Asserting the education and literacy ensure that everyone enjoys personal liberty, while *taking account* of the historical background of developing countries and their social and economic circumstances, particularly the funding of their expenditure on education to reduce illiteracy and elementary school drop-out rates, especially in the present climate of inequality and injustice in international economic relations,

Recognizing that cultural interaction can make an important contribution to international understanding and co-operation,

1. *Emphasizes*, that the establishment of political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equality is essential to sustained economic growth and development;
2. *Underlines* the role in democratic societies of non-governmental organizations and other institutions which are necessary for a pluralist society.
3. *Calls on* all Parliaments and Governments to ensure that citizens are aware of their democratic rights, their responsibilities and the need to participate in the democratic process, and to enable them to do so;

4. *Reaffirms* that access to information is an essential part of democratic development, and *calls on* countries to ensure implementation of the inalienable rights of all individuals especially girls — to education, so that all citizens may acquire the knowledge, abilities and skills which are indispensable for shaping their lives and their system of government in freedom;

5. *Calls on* Government to ensure, in accordance with article 13 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, universal access to, and completion of, high quality primary education, especially for girls, and towards this end, to mobilize financial and human resources, public, private and voluntary;

6. *Calls for* strengthening partnerships in the provision of educational and cultural programmes among all sectors of society, including central and local Government and non-Governmental organizations, the private sector, trade unions, local communities, religious groups, individual families and political parties;

7. *Calls on* all international development agencies — multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental to — support initiatives to achieve universal primary education and literacy for adults in all countries;

8. *Stresses* the need to realize the importance of education systems in a democracy, because governments are the servants of the people and the people's capacity to create, sustain and improve democratic Governments is largely dependent on the quality and effectiveness of the education systems;

9. *Stresses* the need to involve the media in a joint educational undertaking;

10. *Considers* that education programmes must aim to instil in students the principles of democratic life and its foundations; knowledge of the institutions of their country and of man's rights and responsibilities in today's world; the ability to reflect on the conditions for and means of promoting respect for these rights and responsibilities; a capacity for personal reflection and critical analysis; and respect, tolerance and understanding of others;

11. *Invites* parliamentarians to urge their respective Governments to adopt a global strategy to implement policies to this effect;

12. *Stresses* the need for Governments to give more prominence to civic instruction and courses on democracy and political science in school curricula, and *requests* Governments to place an emphasis on the political education of the population through sensitization campaigns, lectures and seminars on democracy with a view to popularizing the fundamental values of democracy.

13. *Emphasizes* that educational and cultural activities must be complementary if they are to play their part in individual fulfilment;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to promote exchange between the various cultures by means of training and exchange programmes, as well as the teaching and dissemination of living languages;

15. *Calls*, in view of the effects and consequences of worldwide migratory movements, for the formulation of strategies at national and international levels whereby immigrants may preserve their cultural identities while becoming integrated in the cultures of receiving countries;

16. *Stresses* the need to combat all forms of corruption through education, including corruption in commercial transactions which undermines the honesty and integrity of public institutions and leads to the wasting of scarce resources;

17. *Calls on* all parliaments represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, particularly those of the richer countries; to urge their respective Goverments, through the resumption of the North-South

dialogue, to render all possible assistance to developing countries in their efforts to promote democratic values through education.

General Debate on the Political, Economic and Social Situation in the World

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference devoted three sittings to its customary General Debate on the Political, Economic and Social Situation in the World (afternoon session of 15 April, morning and afternoon sesions of 16 April) in which 99 Speakers took part. The debate did not come to any particular conclusion nor end with a resolution or summing up. However, it allowed the participants from various national Parliaments to express their concern and anxiety on issues that they considered important. The first sitting opened in the afternoon of 15 April,1993 with Shri Shivraj V. Patil, President of the Conference in the Chair.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Aldo Aju Deng (Sudan) recalled that the delegates were aware of the human tragedy in Sudan which was a fallout of war and as such there was a need for an immediate halt to the war so that way for relief and rehabilitation of the displaced people could be paved.

Mr. Charoen Kantawongs (Thailand) focussed on the preparations underway for the holding of general elections in Cambodia. Stressing that popular participation and pluralism in Government and public affairs through genuine and periodic elections were keys to the dynamism and progress of a nation, he expressed full support for the Cambodian general elections.

In his address, Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, the Commerce Minister of India said that India had struggled hard to establish democracy and in order to sustain democracy, continuous progress towards prosperity and a better quality of life was needed. He stated that a series of economic reforms initiated in India recently were aimed at giving the market a greater role in determining choices and allocating resources. However, planning was needed to complement market forces in order to acreate social infrastructure and human development. Shri Mukherjee pleaded that poverty be treated as the most important global problem and it was necessary in the interest of democracy and continuing reforms to eliminate poverty, something in which the developed countries had a stake.

In his address to the Conference , Shri P.K Bansal (India) said that the world had become a global village and no one could bask in splended isolation. He said the sweeping economic and political change in the world called for universally accepted policies.

Mr. Ryszard Bender, the delegate from Poland said that recent changes around the globe required a new world order which could be based on a United Nations, reformed within the terms of its Charter. The issues of international security made it imperative that the UN missions and peace-keeping operations were expanded to work in harmony with preventive diplomacy and peace reinforcement. Mr. Bender also supported efforts to strengthen links between regional security structures such as the CSCE, NATO and WEU, so as to construct a new cooperative system of international security.

In his address to the Conference, the Chinese delegate Mr. Zhu Qizhen said that the old world structure characterised by confrontation between two super powers had come to an end. However, the international situation remained fluid and volatile, with an intensification of ethnic contradictions, territorial disputes and religious strifes. The economic situation in many developing countries had further deteriorated and the gap between the North and the South further widened. This, if remained unchanged, would surely give rise to new conflicts and new upheavels. There is a need to have a new international order of peace and stability built on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, and a new international economic order on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

Mr. Chung-Soo Park from the Republic of Korea said that the "aggressive unilateralism" of the advanced countries might set off a trade war. There must be a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT

and, in the meantime, countries must resist the temptation to use tariff barriers as a means of retaliation. He further added that Korea was determined to contribute actively to the realization of a genuine world peace.

Participating in the discussion Mr. A.F. Sorour from Egypt said that Africa had become the scene of armed confrontation and Egypt was making efforts to bring about a ceasefire in Sudan as well as the return of the exiled. Observing that Egypt resolutely condemned international terrorism, he called upon all peoples to obstain from recourse to such violence and not to export terrorism abroad. He wished to see more democracy in the world as a whole, in conformity with the general wish of people desirous of seeing future generations free to exercise all their rights.

Mr. G. Ayub Khan, the Pakistani delegate said that his country had a vital stake in promoting both nuclear and conventional disarmament. Global and regional approaches to disarmament complemented each other and could be pursued simultaneously. He also called for a settlement of Kashmir dispute on the basis of relevant UN resolutions and in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

In his reply to Pakistan's observations, the Leader of the Indian Delegation, Shri V.C. Shukla reiterated that Kashmir had been was and would remain an integral part of India. The only remaining issue over Kashmir was the vacation of forcibly occupied territories. The core issue in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir was external support for terrorism and subversion directed against India. The world's problems could be solved only when democracy was accepted not only as a political system but as a way of life. Political stability could not be guaranteed unless economic progress was rooted in democracy.

Exercising the right of reply, the Indian delegate Mr.V.P. Singh said that it was unfortunate that the Leader of the Pakistan delegation had chosen to misuse the IPU to launch a diatribe against India. India knew, Pakistan knew and the whole world knew who was behind the training, financing and assistance given to the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan, which was a theocratic state and until recently had been an authoritarian polity, could not comprehend the logic and dynamics of securalism or democracy. It should concentrate on exorcizing its own religious bigotry, emphasised Mr. Singh.

Mr P. Gresham from New Zealand drew the attention of delegates to the worldwide benefits that could accrue from the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT. When increased employment could result only from economic growth and when the principles of free trade were universally recognised, no IPU country could legitimately deny the prospective benefits of a successful outcome for the sake of appeasement of localised pressure groups.

Mr. J. Baumel of France said that thousand of innocent people were the victims of a barbarous conflict in former Yugoslavia. Deplorable events were taking place in the new and still fragile democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in many Third World countries, namely, Cambodia, Angola and Somalia. Drawing the attention of delegates to many new dangers such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drugs and AIDS, he called upon the Parliamentarians to renew their efforts to support United Nations actions and to use all the means available in their countries to contribute towards the affirmation of democracy, genuine dissemination of human rights and peace.

Latin American countries were also the victims of war-mongers, in the form of arms traffickers who armed the people for wars which they hated, said Mr. P. Padron, the delegate from Andean Parliament. They were "fear-mongers" who used every means to sell their instruments of death besides persuading countries to devote their rare resources to the purchase of arms which they should have used for the future of their children. He appealed to all the members of the United Nations to reduce their military expenditures and to transfer resources to economic and social policy.

The delegate from Jordan, Mr. Abdul-Latif Arabiat said that recent years had seen important changes at the international level. Now there was only one super-power with a monopoly on the international scene

which had created an imbalance of power in international relations. The massacres perpetrated daily in the occupied territories of Palestine were distressing and revolting. The unarmed people who claimed their right to self-determination were the victim of veritable acts of terrorism by Israeli authorities.

Mrs. L. Fischer, representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe said that religious tolerence had to be coupled with family and community values so as to provide moral and ethical strength. It was closely connected with human rights, which had to be developed primarily in political terms. It was in the power of Parliaments to decide whether people could exercise their human rights and freedoms. She also noted that the essence of human rights was not only the right to participate in democracy, but also the opportunity to do so.

The Brazilian delegate, Mr. Ruy Bacelar said that the majority of humanity continued to live in situations of poverty and famine, caused by local conflicts and the confrontation amongst power-seeking factions. This chronic poverty was basically due to the unjust distribution of the consumption of natural resources, with the unbridled consumption by rich countries and in the process, penalizing the poorest countries. Given that this state of affairs was partly due to an unjust international order, the challenge that it represented must be taken up by all mankind.

Addressing the meeting, Mrs. K. Osseni (Benin) expressed her concern at the economic and social situation in the world, in which there were too many hot-beds of tension, too many social inequalities, too many sources of frustration and too much latent or stated Xenophobia. She drew the attention of the delegates to the case of young African democracies and the situation of African peoples who were still struggling to achieve democracy.

Mr. E.K. Gudfinnsson from Iceland observed that the complexity of international trade was undermining the comparative advantage and division of labour which lay at the heart of the trading process and hoped that a GATT agreement would be achieved. Trade was of particular importance to Third World Countries, where it was literally a pre-requisite for the successful elimination of poverty and hunger. But this could happen only if the markets of the rich countries were accessible to the products either of Third World Countries or those of Central and Eastern Europe. He believed that the IPU had an important role to play in countering prejudice and political isolation.

Mrs. T.K. Pekerskaya, the delegate from the Russian Federation recalled that international relations had undergone profound changes since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the totalitarian regimes. Nevertheless, many conflicts persisted and world peace was threatened by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist activities and organised crimes. Economic recession, social tension, aggressive nationalism, intolerance, xenophobia and ethnic conflicts posed a threat to the peaceful development of society, particularly in new democratic states. The debt problems had assumed a chronic character and became impediment to the socio-economic development of the Third World Countries.

Ms. Y. Terlingen representing the Amnesty International pointed out that in reviewing achievements on human rights, it was important not just to identify and preserve what was successful, but to examine the ways in which the international community had not been effective as it could and should have been. The Amnesty International had details of some of the gravest violations of fundamental rights and found it shocking that the UN's human rights bodies were still relatively powerless in the face of gross and widespread human rights violations, such as torture, "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions, in every region of the world. She further added that strong and effective structures and mechanisms at the international level had to be matched at the national levels.

The delegate from Zimbabwe, Mr. N.C. Makomba repeated his call for a new economic order and for the development of international trade, free from discrimination and artificial barriers. Reminding the

delegates that AIDS constituted a plague which threatened to bring untold suffering to humanity, he called upon them to formulate new approaches to the social and economic impact of the disease.

The United Nations was to be commended for the role which it continued to play in alleviating human suffering through its different programmes and organs, said Mr. J. Tumwesigye from Uganda. There was a close correlation between democracy and economic well-being. Support for economic development was, therefore, support for democracy and the temptation on the part of developed countries to cut aid in order to support democratic development was self-defeating. He wished to see the same enthusiasm which was demonstrated towards the extension of democracy, extended to economic matters such as terms of trade.

Others who participated in the deliberations were: Mr. L. Lara (Angola), Mr. E. Menen (Argentina), Mr. J. Hochtl (Austria), Mr. R.M. Fataliyev (Azerbaijan), Mr. T. Ahmed (Bangladesh), Mr. A Shaikh Razzaque (Bangladesh), Mr. H. Van Wambeke (Belgium), Mrs. E. Poptodorova (Bulgaria), Mr. T. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Mr. Cavaye Yeguie Djibril (Cameroon), Mr. P. Bosa (Canada), Mr. A. Redway (Canada), Mr. A. Palma Irarrazaval (Chile), Mr. A. Palma (Chile), Ms. Z. Benitex De Mendoza (Cuba), Mr. N. Anastasiades (Cyprus), Mr. C. Vellego Lopez (Ecuador), Mr. E. Helle (Finland), Mr. U. Irmer (Germany), Mr. D. Scholten (Germany), Mr. A. Kratsas (Greece), Mr. M. Vasarhelyi (Hungary), Mrs. T. Darsoyo (Indonesia), Mr. M. Majdara (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. M. Mojtahed Shabestari (Iran), Mr. H. Sobhani Nia (Iran), Mr. S.M. Saleh (Iraq), Mr. H.A. Aziz (Iraq) Mr. M. Ferris (Ireland), Mr. D. Norris (Ireland), Mr. J. Matza (Israel), Mr. J. Shiozaki (Japan), Mr. H. Yahara (Japan), Mr. V. Omolo Opere (Kenya), Mr. Li Mong Ho (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. A.M. Al-Medej (Kuwait), Mr. P. Khamlieng (Laos), Mr. A. Omran (Leage of Arab States), Mr.A. El-Hafez (Lebanon), Mr. J.N. Gwaikolo (Liberia), Mr. Bin Abdulla (Malaysia), Mr. M. Terrazas (Mexico), Mr. M. Tavira Uriosteguie (Mexico), Ms. L. Istrati (Moldova), Mr. S. Narangerel (Mongolia), Mr. M. Tjitendero (Namibia), Mr. D. Dhungana (Nepal), Mrs. O. Scheltema Denie (Netherlands), Mr. G. Tablada Zelaya (Nicaragua), Mr. A. Skauge (Norway), Mr. H. Akhtar Khan (Pakistan), Mr. A. Abdullah (Palestine), Mr. E.B. Damasing (Philippines), Mr. G.O. Freitas Rodrigues (Portugal), Mr. A. Verestoy (Romania), Mr. V. Sulan (Romania), Mr. M.A. Martinez (Spain), Mr. M. Mohammad (Sri Lanka), Mr. J. Lachmon (Suriname), Mr. M. Kundig (Switzerland), Mr. A.Q. Qaddoura (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. M. Zenaide (Tunisia), Miss I. Aykut (Turkey), Mr. M. Unaldi (Turkey), Mr. A.K. Al Shamsy (United Arab Emirates), Sir P. Hordern (United Kingdom), Mr. R.Godsiff (United Kingdom), Mr. A. Alonso (Uruguay), Mrs. H. Castillo De Lopez (Venezuela), Mr. Hoang Bich Son (Vietnam), Mr. R. Markovic (Yugoslavia), Mr. M.C. Sata (Zambia), Mr. J. Pulgar (Amazonian Parliament), Mr. D. Martin (European Parliament), Mr. J. Saigal (UNCTAD), Ms. B. Astolfi (UN Development Fund for Women) and Mrs. S. Bari (UN High Commissioner for Refugees).

Supplementary Item on Yugoslavia

At the opening of the sitting on 12 April, the Conference had before it requests from Iraq, Germany, Egypt, Syria, Italy, United Kingdom and Iran for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda. During the meeting, the delegations of Iraq and Germany withdrew their requests. Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic announced that they had combined their separate requests for a supplementary item under the title:

> "The role of Parliamentarians in the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of August 1949 concerning the return of Palestinians expelled by Israel".
>
> Italy and United Kingdom likewise combined their requests under the following title:
>
> "The need for urgent action in the former Yugoslavia, particularly as regards the protection of minorities and the prevention of further loss of life in order that peaceful co-existence and respect of human rights can be restored for all peoples."

The Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had also proposed an item concerning the situation in the former Yugoslavia, made known that it associated itself with the combined proposal of Italy and United Kingdom.

Both the proposals were put to vote and obtained the necessary two-thirds majority. However, the request of the Italian and United Kingdom Groups, having received the highest number of positive votes was duly added as item 7 (supplementary) of the agenda of the Conference.

In accordance with Conference Rule 15.2, the above topic was referred to the Ist Committee. The Conference also set 2 p.m. on 13 April as the deadline for submission of draft resolutions.

This topic was debated in the Ist Committee (on political questions, international security and disarmament) starting on 13 April (20 speakers took the floor).

Opening the debate, Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Chairperson of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, informed the Committee that the women parliamentarians had adopted a declaration on the systematic rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and wished to see it reflected in the Conference's resolution on the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

The Committee appointed a drafting committee composed of representatives from Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Turkey and the United Kingdom. The text which was presented to the Conference on 17 April by the Ist Committee was adopted without a vote. The delegation of Yugoslavia declared that it could not vote for the resolution given the content of its first cooperative paragraph (referring to international sanctions against Yugoslavia). Following the adoption of the resolution, the delegate of Sweden expressed the hope that the special IPU mission referred to in paragraph 18 of the resolution would be carried out as soon as possible, and proposed that Sir Michael Marshall, President of the IPU Council should lead it.

The text of the resolution adopted is as follows:

The 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Deploring the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina and *condemning* the atrocities against minorities, women and children,

Strongly condemning the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and most particularly the use of systematic rape of women and girls as a weapon of war and *declaring* that such violations of human rights are most heinous war crimes and must be considered crimes against humanity,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Stockholm, September 1992) concerning the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Expressing deep concern that, despite all the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, there has been a continuing escalation of violence, aggression and occupation of territories, causing millions of displaced persons and refugees, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Emphasizing that the international community should seek a solution which does not reward aggression,

1. *Supports* current international sanction imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and designed to end the fighting and place pressure upon those responsible for the conflict to reach an immediate settlement, and *calls on* the international community to take further measures to stop the aggression;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for more effective implementation of the United Nations total arms embargo on all sides in order to ensure its equal impact on all parties as a means to end the continuing aggression;

3. *Endorses* the decision taken by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 808 (1993) to establish an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsibile for violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

4. *Reasserts* the right of all communities to live in peace and security within their internationally recognized borders;

5. *Expresses appreciation* to all those undertaking peace-keeping and humanitarian aid action, especially under the auspices of the United Nations;

6. *Recognizes* the right of self-defence of UN peace-keeping troops and *calls on* all parties to ensure their safety so that they can discharge their duties effectively in the field of humanitarian aid and peace-keeping;

7. *Demands* that humanitarian aid efforts be unimpeded by all parties to the conflict;

8. *Strongly condemns* all violations of humanitarian law and fundamental human rights in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the practice of "ethnic cleansing", and *calls on* those responsible to cease such violations immediately and ensure full respect for humanitarian law as well as the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, regardless of their race, sex, language or religion;

9. *Firmly condemns* all forced demographic changes in the occupied territories of the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

10. *Calls on* countries to help refugees fleeing from the conflict;

11. *Urges* the creation of the necessary conditions for the safe-repatriation of all displaced civilians and refugees to their homes as soon as possible;

12. *Categorically condemns* the systematic rape of women and girls in the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and *urges* the belligerent parties immediately to cease violence against women and girls;

13. *Declares* that systematic rape of women and girls in armed conflicts is a war crime and must be designated as a crime against humanity under international law;

14. *Calls for* the appointment of a special woman rapporteur, at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, for human rights violations committed against women, and *suggests* the establishments, within the framework of the United Nations, of a relief fund for the victims of systematic rape;

15. *Calls on* all parties to respect international humanitarian law and to release immediately all persons arrested arbitrarily or detained;

16. *Supports* the efforts of those pursuing effective peace plans and bringing the warring parties together in an attempt to achieve a peaceful resolution, and *welcomes* international efforts to end the conflict in order to prevent it from spreading;

17. *Demands* that the Bosnian-Serb side sign without further delay the Vance-Owen peace plan as the other parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina have already done;

18. *Asks* the Inter-Parliamentary Council to consider sending a special IPU mission to the former Yugoslavia, in accordance with Article 1, 2(b) of the Statutes, to hold consultations with regard to human rights and to support efforts for peace in the region;

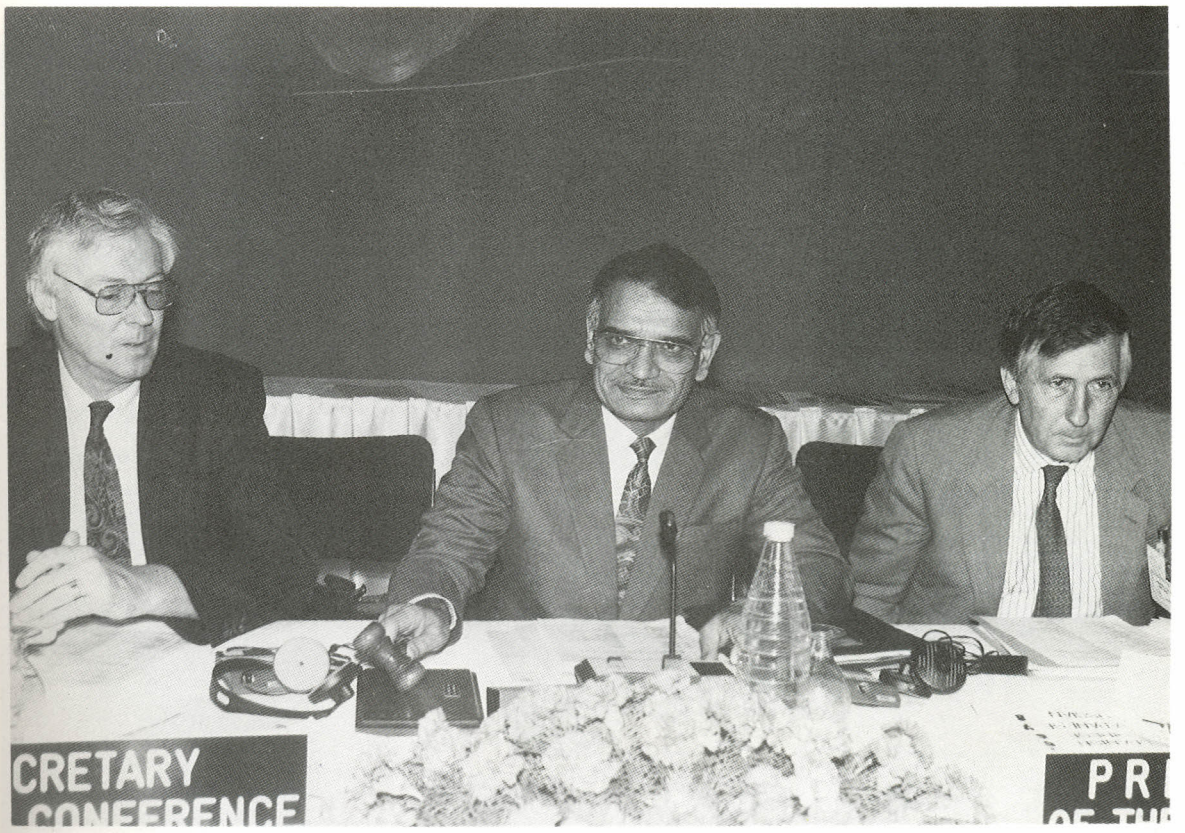
19. *Suggests* that, following the settlement of the conflict, the Inter-Parliamentary Council also considers sending a mission to observe the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes;

20. *Urges* national parliaments and governments to take all necessary measures to protect human rights, implement humanitarian law, promote peace and achieve a lasting solution to the underlying causes of conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Election to the Executive Committee

On the proposal of the Inter-Parliamentary Council the Conference elected by acclamation Mr. A. Fosset (France) to serve on the Committee until September 1993 in place of Mr. Y. Tavernier who was no longer a Member of Parliament, and Mrs. T. Darsoyo (Indonesia) to replace until September 1995 Mr. M. Darusman who had also ceased to be a Member of Parliament.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil presiding the Conference. Also seen in the picture is Sir Michael Marshall, President, IPU Council.



Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Conference Shri Shivraj V. Patil presiding over the plenary session.

A view of the Business Session of the Conference.

Another view of the Business Session in Progress.

Delegates from Bangladesh attending the Business Session.

Delegates from China attending the Business Session of the Conference.

Delegates from India attending the Business Session of the Conference.

Delegates from Japan attending the Business Session of the Conference

Delegates from Iran attending the Business Session of the Conference.

Delegates from Moldova attending the Business Session of the Conference.

Delegates from Pakistan attending the Business Session.

Delegates from Slovenia and Spain attending the Business Session of the Conference.

CHAPTER VII

SITTINGS AND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

As has already been discussed in Chapter on 'Inter-Parliamentary Union', there are four Committees of the IPU, which assist the Conference in its work. *Committee I* on Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament; *Committee II* on Parliamentary, Juridical and Human Rights Questions; *Committee III* on Economic and Social Questions: and *Committee IV* on Education, Science, Culture and Environment.

However, during the Conference, only Committee I and Committee IV met as the subjects proposed for discussion related to them.

Committee on Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament

The Committee on Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament met on 13, 14 and 16 April, 1993 under its Vice-Chairman, Shri Jagesh Desai (India). The Committee, as usual, was called upon to prepare draft resolution on each of the following items in the plenary:

(1) The need for urgent action in the former Yugoslavia, particularly as regards the protection of minorities and the prevention of further loss of life in order that peaceful co-existence and respect for human rights can be restored for all peoples.*

(2) Transparency in arms transfers through a global arms register, notably as a means to check the growing use of violence to achieve political objectives.**

On the subject at Item (1) above, five draft resolutions submitted by the National Groups of Iran, Italy, Turkey, United Kingdom and by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians were referred to the Committee for study and report.

Following the debate in the plenary in which 20 speakers took the floor, a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of the Groups of Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Italy Turkey and United Kingdom was appointed.

The Drafting Committee took the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom Group as the basis for its discussions. After five hours of discussion, it adopted without a vote a draft resolution which it re-examined and improved further. When this text was presented to the Ist Committee meeting in plenary, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expressed its opposition to the resolution and proposed amendments to the fifth paragraph of the Preamble and operative paragraph I, both of which were rejected. However, the amendment submitted by Swiss delegation which proposed to make operative paragraph 17 more binding by replacing the world "Calls on" by "Demands" was approved.

The Committee finally adopted the draft resolution*** as a whole, as amended, by 25 votes to 1 with no abstentions, and appointed Mr. H. McCurdy (Canada) as Rapporteur to the 89th Conference.

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* This topic, included as supplementary item in the agenda of the 89th Conference, was referred to the Ist Committee pursuant to Conference Rule 15.2.
** This topic was included as Item-3 in the agenda of the 89th IPU Conference.
*** For text of the resolution see pages: 66-68.

On the subject at Item (2), 20 draft resolutions submitted by the National Groups of Argentina, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Moldova, the Nordic Groups, Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zimbabwe as well as by the Andean Parliament were referred to the Committee. One amendment submitted by the National Group of Poland to the draft resolution of the Nordic Groups was also referred to the Committee.

The Committee at its meeting held on 14 April appointed a Drafting Committee comprising representatives of the National Groups of Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Philippines, Suriname and Switzerland. Mr. E. Smith (Denmark) and Mrs. E. Anderson (Canada) were chosen, respectively, as Chairman and Rapporteur of the Drafting Committee.

The Drafting Committee took the draft resolution of the Canadian Group as the basis for its work but also drew regularly from other submitted texts, particularly those of the delegations from Egypt and the Nordic Groups and, to a lesser extent, those prepared by Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Venezuela. The Committee also approved an oral amendment made by the Indian representative and, with respect to the last operative paragraph (Ultimately paragraph 13), heard the views of the Secretary-General of the IPU regarding the implications for the Union of approving this provision. Finally, the consolidated text was unanimously adopted.

The full Committee then considered the drafting group's output and approved two additional paragraphs thereto (preambular 14 and operative 9), while rejecting a number of other amendments. The draft resolution* as a whole was adopted by 29 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

At its final meeting on 16 April, the Committee, by acclamation, elected Mr. M.A. Martinez (Spain) as its Chairman until its next regular session. It subsequently re-elected Mr. J. Desai (India) and elected Mrs. H. Megahed (Egypt) as its Vice-Chairpersons, by acclamation.

Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Environment

The Committee met on 15 and 17 April, 1993 under its Chairman Mr. J. Kararuddin (Pakistan).

The Committee was called upon to prepare draft resolution on the following item of the agenda:

"The implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values."**

In this context, an information document provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and 13 draft resolutions submitted by National Groups of Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, as well as the Andean Parliament were referred to the Committee for its study and report.

The Committee at its sitting held on 15 April, appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of the 10 countries *viz.*, Egypt, France, Iceland, Indonesia, India, Netherlands, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. The Drafting Committee took the United Kingdom's draft resolution as the basis for its discussions and drew on the other drafts as well. Finally, it adopted, without a vote, the consolidated text that had taken its six hours of discussion.

The Committee at its sitting on 17 April, adopted without a vote the entire draft resolution presented by the Drafting Committee.

The Committee chose Mrs. E. Peacock (United Kingdom) as Rapporteur to the 89th Conference. It re-elected by acclamation Mr. J. Kararuddin (Pakistan) and Mr. C.J. Pereyra (Uruguay) as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, and elected Mrs. A. Laustsen (Denmark) as Vice-Chairperson.

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* For text of the resolution see pages : 54-57.

** This topic was included as Item-4 in the agenda of the 89th IPU Conference.

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 61st session from 11 to 15 April, 1993 during which it held six meetings *in camera.*

This session was chaired by Mr. H. Solari Yrigoyen (Argentina), and was attended by Mr. Y. Agboyibo (Togo), Mr. N. Anastasiades (Cyprus), Mr. R.S. Roco (Philippines) and Mrs. J. Meier (Switzerland), titular members of the Committee. The Committee studied the situations of each of the 130 serving or former parliamentarians in 14 countries spread over all regions of the world. Taking advantage of the presence in New Delhi of the delegations of several countries concerned, the committee, in keeping with its constant practice, conducted seven hearings *in camera.*

After a thorough study of the allegations made and information before it, the Committee submitted to the Council a report containing recommendations concerning the cases of 105 serving or former parliamentarians in eight countries namely, Bulgaria, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Myanmar, Togo and Turkey.

Introducing the Committee's report to the Council on 17 April, Mr. Solari Yrigoyen described the activities and working methods of the Committee. He appealed to the National Groups so that they reinforce their activities in support of the resolutions of the Council in defence of human rights.

On the Committee's proposal the Council adopted without a vote, resolutions concerning 105 serving or former parliamentarians in eight countries.

Committee on Middle East Questions

The Committee met on 14 April, 1993 under the chairmanship of Dr. D. Sow (Senegal). The meeting was also attended by Mr. M. Abdullah (Egypt), Mr. N.C. Makombe (Zimbabwe) and Mr. M.A. Martinez (Spain). Mr. A. Ghalanos (Cyprus) was not able to attend the Conference while Mr. Y. Tavernier (France) could not attend, being no longer a parliamentarian.

The members of the Committee felt that, more than ever at the present stage of the peace process, they should hear the views of the Arab and Israeli National Groups, in order to enable them to formulate their own views and report thereon to the Council.

On behalf of the Arab Groups, Mr. Abdullah (Palestine) reiterated the importance and timeliness of the Committee's work as well as the Arab Groups' commitment to its action and to the peace process as a whole. Realising that there were so many hindrances to the peace process, Mr. Abdullah hoped that the Committee would recommend that Israel desist from such actions as create obstacles to the road to peace, abide by the UN Security Council resolutions and proceed on the way to peace which all peoples of the region so desired.

Mr. Matza (Israeli Group) said that there were active talks with the United States, the Palestinians and others with a view to enabling the peace talks to resume in Washington. The Israeli Government was making strenuous efforts to find a solution concerning the Palestinians and to negotiate with Syria regarding Golan Heights.

Having heard the opinions expressed by the Arab and Israeli Groups, the members of the Committee were impressed by the progress achieved over the years, in the two parties willingness to share their views so as to move ahead towards peace in the regions, recognising each other as partners. They were convinced that, inspite of, and perhaps because of the progress made, it was essential to avoid discord on irrelevant and extraneous issues so that the peace process started over a year-and-a-half ago might lead to concrete progress.

In view of the above, the members strongly felt that the UN Security Council resolutions should be respected and that both parties should do their utmost to advance the peace process by joining in the talks and participating fully therein. They were also convinced that not only the sponsors of the Peace Conference but the entire international community as a whole should exert every effort to support, encourage and facilitate the negotiations which had started and which were scheduled to resume.

The members appreciated Israel's decision to rescind the law prohibiting citizens from having contact with the PLO. They also felt that terrorism should be firmly condemned and there should be strong action at all levels to prevent and suppress it. The Committee members believed that the failure of peace efforts would boost the rise of religious extremism on both sides and represent a threat to all. Therefore, peace in the Middle East would benefit not only the region but the international community as a whole.

Support Committee to the North-South Dialogue

The Support Committee to the North-South Dialogue on Problems of Third World Debt met on 11 April, 1993. The meeting was chaired by Dr. D. Sow (Senegal) and attended by Mr. B.Halliday (Canada), Mr. T. Abdou Ismail (Egypt), Mr. J. Baumel (France), Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar (India), Mr. D. Dobzhinsky (Russian Federation) and Mr. N. Chitty La Roche (Venezuela).

At the invitation of the National Group of Canada, the Committee considered matters relating to the organisation of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on North-South relations and decided to recommend to the Inter-Parliamentary Council that the Conference should be organised under the title 'North-South Dialogue for Global Prosperity' and be held, as originally foreseen, in Ottawa during 18-22 October, 1993. The Support Committee reviewed possible topics to be debated at the Conference. It also reviewed the organization of work and time-table of the Conference, and formulated relevant proposals which were submitted to the Inter-Parliamentary Council for approval.

The Committee designated three of its members (from France, Senegal and Venezuela) to take part in the meetings of the Conference Preparatory Committee in Ottawa during 12 to 17 July 1993. Finally, it appointed Mr. T.A. Ismail (Egypt) to be the Committee's rapporteur at the sitting of the Inter-Parliamentary Council on 17 April, 1993.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) Meeting

The second follow-up meeting of representatives of the parties to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) was held on 14 April under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.H. Khelil (Tunisia), who was elected by acclamation to that office on the proposal of the Spanish delegation. The first of these follow-up meetings to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (Malaga, June 1992) had taken place in Stockholm in September 1992, as the Council had encouraged the parties to the process to meet at each of the Union's two annual statutory Conferences to take stock of the situation as regards the setting up of an inter-governmental mechanism for the CSCM, to promote constructive initiatives and to study the information gathered by the Secretary-General of the Union on follow-up action and contacts in the light of the contents of the Final Document of the Malaga Conference.

The Participants had before them a document presenting the information transmitted by three of the main participants in the CSCM process (the Groups of Cyprus, Malta and Turkey) and two of the associate participants (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union), on the follow-up to the Malaga Conference. This document was supplemented by oral information from the Secretary-General on the Secretariat's activities, and by a presentation by the Chairman who also described recent activities by Tunisia in this field.

Following discussions in which many delegations took part and on the proposal of Mr. M.A. Martinez (Spain), the participants agreed that, drawing on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) experience, the Union should hold a CSCM meeting on a three-yearly basis. They decided to set up a working Group composed of representatives of the Groups of France, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, which they entrusted with the task of preparing the second CSCM in 1995. This Group is to meet in Canberra and report on its work at the next meeting of representatives of the parties to the CSCM process; appropriate recommendations are to be submitted to the Inter-Parliamentary Council in due time.

Informal Group Meetings

Inter-Parliamentary Conferences provide occasions for a number of meetings to which the members of the Union attach great importance, not only because these provide an opportunity to set out common positions on the issues examined by the various bodies of the Union and on candidatures for the post to be filled, but also because they give an occasion to establish and maintain valuable contacts at both the institutional and individual level.

Almost all National Groups form part of regional or specific geopolitical interest groupings. These multilateral groupings, which exercise a more or less crucial influence on the activities of the Union as a whole, meet once or more on the occasion of Inter-Parliamentary Meetings. Many such groups are in operation including the Group of Parliamentarians from Asia and the Pacific, Group of African Parliamentarians, Group of Latin American Parliamentarians, Twelve Plus Group and NAM Group.

Group of Parliamentarians from Asia and the Pacific

The meeting of the Asia-Pacific group of parliamentarians was held on 13 April at 4.00 p.m. in Banquet Hall, Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam were present in the meeting. India chaired the meeting.

The meeting agreed to the draft record of the meetings held on September 6 and 8, 1992 at Stockholm. Regarding matters arising from the Agenda of the Inter-Parliamentary Council or Conference, the meeting agreed to the following Asia-Pacific nominees for drafting committees on:

Ist Committee: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines

4th Committee: India, Republic of Korea and New Zealand

Report on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians held on 11 April, 1993

The Committee was informed on the work of the Women Parliamentarians by Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Leader of the Indian Delegation who chaired the Conference. She informed the participants about an IPU plan of action to correct the current imbalances in the participation of men and women in politics; the progress report on the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Parliamentary Support to elaboration and adoption by the UN of a Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; the Preparation of 1994 — the International Year of the Family, proclaimed by the UN and the Health and Well-being of the Elderly — subjects which were discussed at the meeting of the Women Parliamentarians.

Women Parliamentarians unanimously adopted a Declaration condemning the reported systematic rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This declaration was submitted to the First Committee of the IPU Conference in the form of a draft resolution so that it could find due reflection in the final resolution of the Supplementary item of the 89th IPU Conference. This was accepted by the Executive Council of the IPU Conference.

Sir Michael Marshall, President of the IPU Council, who was invited to this meeting, expressed his readiness to offer full cooperation to the Asia-Pacific Group in strengthening the IPU and to promote its objectives and strengthen its relations with the United Nations and other international agencies.

Proposed IPU Asia-Pacific Conference on Science and Technology: A member of the Japanese delegation informed the meeting that their proposal to hold an Asia-Pacific Conference on Science and Technology under the aegis of the IPU had been accepted by the IPU. He added that Japan proposes to hold this Conference some time in June 1994. The participating countries would be from the Asia-Pacific Group and other delegates from the technologically advanced countries and specialist organisations.

Proposals to be put to the Executive Committees for subject items for the 90th IPU Conference to be held in Canberra, Australia : Members were advised to directly submit the subject items for the 90th IPU Conference to be held in Canberra, Australia to the IPU Secretariat.

Other business : The delegate from Indonesia proposed that the delegate from Egypt be supported for the Vice-Chairmanship of the 1st Committee. This found support from other delegates.

A delegate from Mongolia expressed the desire on behalf of his country to host a Conference on the Rights of Child under the aegis of the IPU in 1995 and wanted support from the Asia-Pacific Group.

A delegate from Sri Lanka observed that a candidate from the Asia-Pacific Group was a candidate for the Presidentship of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the last occasion. He felt that it was time that a candidate from this Group was supported by the Group for Presidentship of the Council. This suggestion was supported by the delegate from Bangladesh.

Delegates from Australia extended a warm invitation to all the Asia-Pacific delegates to participate in the 90th IPU Conference scheduled in Canberra during September 1993.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Leader of the Indian delegation, Hon'ble Shri V.C. Shukla who chaired the meeting.

CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUDING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE

The week-long 89th IPU Conference came to the grand finale at a glittering function held in the Convention Hall of Hotel Ashok on 17 April. An aura of bonhomie permeated the closing ceremony where delegates exchanged pleasantries after days of protracted discussions and deliberations on a host of issues confronting the world today.

The delegates took the opportunity to thank the host Parliament and the Government of India and particularly, the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha for the success of the Conference and for the generous hospitality of the Indian people. In their thanks-giving speeches, delegates made repeated references to Mahatma Gandhi and his principles which, they observed, were more relevant today than ever before. They also appreciated India's achievements in diverse fields and its tryst with democracy. The delegates also acknowledged the role of Sir Michael Marshall for the success of the Conference. The distinguished delegates while expressing their satisfaction at the outcome of the Conference, pledged to work more resolutely to realise the cherished goals and objectives of the IPU to make the world a better place to live in.

In his thanks-giving address, the Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil thanked the delegates and other dignitaries, as well as the various organisations and agencies who worked to make the Conference a success. Observing that the deliberations in this Conference were very scintillating, full of thoughts, sober, responsible and of a very high order, Shri Patil said that, "If we value Democracy and the Parliamentary System, we should meet and discuss issues of importance, relevant to the world and all of us, as often as is possible."

Sir Michael Marshall in his valedictory address praised Shri Shivraj V. Patil for this singular valuable contribution to the success of the Conference. On behalf of the IPU, Sir Michael presented a memento to Shri Patil. Sir Michael also acknowledged the services of Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and Secretary-General of the Conference in regard to the organisation of the Conference. Sir Michael Marshall also thanked the Government and the people of India in general for their warm hospitality and the India Group of IPU, in particular, for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

The Conference was formally declared closed at 4 p.m.

Immediately after the closing ceremony, Shri Patil addressed a joint Press Conference with Sir Michael Marshall where he noted the achievements of the Conference.

ADDRESS BY SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

Hon. President of Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall, Distinguished Members of the Executive Committee, Secretary-General Mr. Pierre Cornillon, Hon. Delegates and their spouses, Hon. Leader of the Opposition in Indian Parliament, Hon. Members of the Indian Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a long speech written which I want to read out to you and I seek your indulgence for the same. Within a few minutes, the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference will be concluded. On this occasion, we would like to thank all the dignitaries, friends and organisations, who have inspired and helped us to make this Conference a success. We thank the President of India for inaugurating the Conference, addressing the delegates and receiving them in the Mughal Gardens of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. We are also grateful to the Vice-President of India for inaugurating the Women Parliamentarians' Conference, receiving women parliamentarians and the delegates to the main Conference and hosting a dinner in their honour.

We are also thankful to the Prime Minister of India for addressing the delegates, for holding a reception in their honour and for receiving some of the leaders of the delegations and dignitaries.

We are beholden to the representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation for conveying the message of the Secretary-General to the Conference.

We are also thankful to the President of Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall for mooting the idea of holding this Conference in New Delhi and seeing that the idea was accepted by all concerned in the IPU, for instituting the Award for the best Parliamentarian in the world and for seeing that it is given to Dr. G.S. Dhillon posthumously and doing everything necessary to see that the Conference is organised in a smooth and correct manner and for making it a success.

Dr. Pierre Cornillon, the Secretary-General of the IPU has been very helpful in every respect, in seeing that the proceedings in the Conference and in the Committees are held in the manner in which they should be held. His colleagues have worked very hard behind the curtain to provide all the assistance in this respect and in many other respects to achieve the objectives of the Conference. We are beholden to the Secretary-General of the IPU and his colleagues for all the good work they have done for the Conference.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, the Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy-Speaker, Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Rabi Ray, Shri Dipen Ghosh, Shri P.G. Narayanan, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya and other members of the delegation and the Members of Parliament have taken great pains to see that the Conference functions smoothly and meaningfully and helped all concerned with the Conference in every respect. We thank them very sincerely.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and their Ministers and officers have done a great deal in seeing that this Conference succeeds. We thank them very sincerely.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of India, the leader of other parties in the Parliament, in fact all the Members of the Indian Parliament were enthusiastic about holding this Conference in India . They gave all the help and support to this Conference. We thank them very sincerely. We would like to congratulate and thank the Secretaries -General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, their colleagues in all branches, the officers and others from the CPWD, Hotel Ashok, Doordarshan, All India Radio and from the Department of Information for the splendid job they have done. The Press and the Media have been very correct, informative and positive in their reporting to the people on the Conference. They deserve our sincere thanks and congratulations.

Hon. delegates, but for your understanding, cooperation and meaningful participation and affection and friendship, it would not have been possible to organise and conduct the proceedings in the meetings and in the Conference in a manner in which we have done during the last seven days. The Members of Parliament of India, the Press and the Government of India and the people of India are immensely happy to have you in India as our honoured guests and to give you and the Indian people an opportunity to see one another and to understand one another's point of view. We have tried our best to make your stay in our country meaningful and as comfortable as has been possible for us. We have received a lot of appreciation from you for what we have done for the Conference and our guests. We thank you very sincerely for your appreciation and congratulations.

By my mistake or accident, if anything, anywhere in the Conference has gone wrong or caused any inconvenience to you in any manner , we beg to be excused. We ask you please to come to India again and again in your different capacities. For all this, we will welcome you with our open heart.

The deliberations in this Conference have been very scintilinating, full of thoughts, sober, responsible and of a very high order. The new point made by the delegates would be compiled and published in a book form. The material thus collected and published would be very useful to the Parliamentarians, the Governments and the international organisations. The discussion on the topics selected for deliberations have resulted into the Resolutions which would be very useful to all concerned. The discussions on the arms register have thrown open a bright light on the different aspects relating to it and to the question of controlling the race of armament in general and conventional weapons in particular and subjects connected to this issue such as terrorism, etc.

The views expressed would certainly be very helpful to make this world a little more safe, peaceful and tranquil, the objectives for which the IPU has been brought into existence.

The discussions on the educational and cultural policies for creating democratic ethos, have been very thought provoking and useful. The subject is very enormous. Time available could not have been sufficient. All the same, the points made can be of very great value to all of us.

The General Debate on the political, economic and cultural situation in the world has been quite interesting and informative. The views held by the Peoples of the world on these issues could be made known to one another. That would help us to see that we move in the direction which would be acceptable to majority of us.

The deliberations on the issues were quite frank and interesting. The essence of Democracy and the Parliamentary system lies in discussing the matters openly and coming to acceptable conclusion. This Parliament of Parliaments has done the same thing for which it deserves the appreciation of all the Peoples.

The Conference has been able to adopt a resolution on the supplementary item on the agenda. We hope that it would help in achieving the objectives for which it is being passed. If we value democracy and Parliamentary system, we should all meet and discuss issues of importance, relevance to the world and all of us, as often as is possible. If we want this world to be peaceful and a prosperous place, we should respect and love one another and behave as members of one family. Members of one family may have different views. They

may, at times, be angry with one another. However, they can never be happy if any one of them suffers. Let us meet, let us understand, let us respect, let us love one another and let us create a world safer and enjoyable place to live in.

With the permission of all of you, I declare this Conference concluded and closed.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY SIR MICHAEL MARSHALL, PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL

Mr. President, Fellow Parliamentarians and friends, I would like to wholeheartdly subscribe to the views that have been put to you this afternoon on behalf of the various groups. But I would like to take this opportunity, if I may, as a part of our tradition, to recognise two persons, who have been, shall I say, the architect of this wonderful Conference. When we spoke about these matters, would you recall that in 1991 in Delhi Conference you said that you would be able to invite IPU here in 1993. The fact that you have done so, reflects, I believe on your assessment of the significance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the role, ever increasing role that India is playing in our affairs. So, it is with very warm heart that we thank two persons in particular for making all this possible. One is Mr. C.K. Jain, Secretary-General of Lok Sabha. He will come forward for presentation. I said, there were two persons and I don't think it will surprise my colleagues if I say the second person is yourself. I want to give you a little memento of the Centenary Conference of the IPU which took place in London in 1989. It is a small gift, which some call it the Mother of Parliament to you in the Lok Sabha. I shall return to my place in a moment to make that presentation. But before I do it, may I perhaps just -re-echo the words that I used in the opening ceremony to show my interest towards Hindi, Jai to you, Jai Jagat, Jai Hindi, Jai Patil.

89वां अंतर-संसदीय सम्मेलन
89th INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CO
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NEW DELHI, 12-17 April 199

89वां अंतर-संसदीय सम्मेलन
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The Vice-President also released a Commemorative Stamp brought out by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and Commemorative Coins brought out by Ministry of Finance and two books, titled "Women Parliamentarians in India" and "The Union and State Legislatures in India" brought out by Lok Sabha Secretariat on the occasion.

Meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee

Following the Inaugural Session, Mrs. E. Anderson (Canada) presented the report of the Co-ordinating Committee, which had met in Stockholm, in September, 1992, and in New Delhi one hour prior to the opening. The Committee met again on 16 April, 1993 to evaluate the results of the Session and prepare proposals for future activities.

The participants discussed at length the various aspects of the preparation of an IPU plan of Action to correct current Imbalances in the Participation of Men and Women in Politics; Parliamentary Support to the elaboration and adoption, by the United Nations of a Universal Declaration of Violence against Women; Preparation of 1994 — the International Year of the Family, proclaimed by the United Nations; the Health and Well-Being of the Elderly; Pre-study from the perspective of women legislators of items on the agenda of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, and strategies to ensure that at least one woman is included as a member in each drafting committee; and place, date and agenda of the next meeting of Women Parliamentarians (The participants also exchanged views on the preparations for the IVth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995). Subsequently, a more in-depth information meeting was held on 15 April with input by the representative of China, the Conference host country, as well as by the representative of the United Nations Division for the Promotion of women and that of UNIFEM.

At the initiative of the German delegates and on the recommendations of the Co-ordinating Committee, the participants unanimously approved a declaration condemning the rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina which was used as a weapon of war.

Having further taken note of the fact that the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women had just finalized, in March, 1993, the draft International Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the participants adopted a motion of support worded as follows:

> "The women parliamentarians, meeting in New Delhi (India) on 11 April, 1993 on the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, supported the draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as adopted by the Conference on the Status of women in March, 1993. They asked the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt it without delay and agreed that they would seek the necessary support from their Governments to that end. They urged national governments and national parliaments to reflect the substance of the Declaration, when finally adopted by the United Nations, in their national legislation."

The participants also heard a presentation by the UN Co-ordinator of the 'International Year of the Family —1994' — proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

They heard the same United Nations official speak on the question of the health and well-being of the elderly and recommended that the Union's governing bodies include this question on the agenda of the 90th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Canberra. This proposal was approved by the Council at its sitting held on 17 April.

Lastly, the participants touched on the question of posts to be filled within the Union during the New Delhi Conference and expressed their support for the candidature of Mrs. H. Megahed (Egypt), as Vice-Chairperson of the Ist Committee. Mrs. Megahed was subsequently elected to that post.

The women parliamentarians will hold their next meeting in Canberra on 12 September, 1993. Before the meeting opens, the Co-ordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will meet to decide on various practical arrangements designed to facilitate the work of the meeting.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, RAJYA SABHA

Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, Hon'ble Speaker of the House of People, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Telecommunications, Hon'ble Sir Michael Marshall, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to this august assembly. I hope your stay here will be enjoyable. Not only that but the deliberations to follow would also provide an opportunity to interact. It would enable you to carry back home the enduring impressions of togetherness, and sharing of our experience in our endeavours to make this world better and liveable for generations to come.

It is the Inter-Parliamentary Union and especially the meeting of the Women Parliamentarians which has by its manifold activities succeeded in sensitizing the world public opinion and the Parliamentarians all over to undertake legislation to abolish the disparities which exist between men and women in our society.

These achievements have not come easily. They came as a result of persistent efforts of women parliamentarians. It was a long struggle. It succeeded in impressing upon the IPU in 1958 the need to ensure political rights of women in member countries. The impetus provided by these actions resulted in a symposium on the question of women in politics in 1989. The report of IPU on 'Women and Political Power' in 1992 is a reflection of this realization.

We all know women have been at the receiving end for generations. The emotional, sexual and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor announces: It is a girl. They have all along endured the restrictions placed on them by the society. Yet they continued to contribute in their own silent way towards economic and social upliftment of the society. It is they who hold together a family and also form the basic cohesive factor of our social fabric. Inspite of all these attributes the women are relegated to a secondary position.

The struggle for political and social rights for women has always been affected by the geopolitical changes from time to time. We have seen violent and fierce struggles being launched by women in technologically developed countries to achieve their basic political rights. We in India have been lucky. With foresight, our national leaders gave a call to the women of this country to come out of their traditional roles. They made us to participate in the freedom movement as equal partners. We got the freedom of the country and also helped to free ourselves from the shackles of centuries old prejudices and biases.

The result of our participation in the freedom movement manifested in emergence of women leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Vijayalaxmi Pandit and Indira Gandhi. They have left their mark on the pages of history.

In the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the women of India found an unparalled champion of our cause. He said, I Quote "I am uncompromising in the matter of women's rights. In my opinion she should labour under no legal disability not suffered by man. I should treat the daughters and sons on a footing of perfect equality." Unquote.

His belief and thought is enshrined in our Constitution, in the Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights. Since then many a legislations have been enacted to improve the status of women. Yet I would not say that it has ended the gender bias completely. Legislations alone cannot end the tormentation of women. It can come only when the psyche changes, when men accept that we are equal, if not better.

In India, the leadership from Mahatma Gandhi to the present times has made all efforts to see how women become equal partners in the development of the country. Mrs. Gandhi did not want women to be put on the pedestal to be praised and worshipped but to be treated like normal human beings. Rajiv Gandhi gave them the confidence and appointed them at decision making positions. He also took an important decision in reserving 30% seats for women in our grassroot democracies like village and district level committees and civic bodies to prepare them for the future responsibilities to become legislators and parliamentarians. This would correct the current imbalances in the participation of men and women in politics. The present Prime Minister has constituted for women by an act of Parliament to look into the problems faced by them.

Despite not being accorded their due social status, it is important to note that the proportion of women who are bread winners of family has increased dramatically in developing and the developed countries, both in the rural and the urban areas. There are far too many female heads of the families now than ever before; sometimes due to their efforts but many a times due to the circumstances. It is important that they are given their due position in the society.

If the leadership of a country does not take special care, the women cannot get their rightful positions in the society or at the decision making positions. I must say here that our Speaker Mr. Shivraj Patil has given all support in our efforts whenever we needed it. It was for his support that we could strengthen the women's group in the CPA when we met here in New Delhi in 1991. Now that group has become an annual feature in all the conferences of the Commonwealth Parliaments. It is proved, dear friends, that men are not our enemies. Perhaps they are fellow victims. The real enemy is our own denegration and subjugation.

20th century has in its stride witnessed many events — war and turmoils, struggles and liberations, unity and disintegrations — leaving deep impressions on the lives of millions world over. We have seen tremendous progress in science. Communication technology has no doubt shrunken the world, but it has also created rift among the people.

The recent years have seen progress in the direction of disarmament, yet weapons are still used to kill the innocents. Countries have been liberated but the people are put under siege. Nations are united yet people are fighting on narrow considerations. Ethnic and linguistic differences have become the root cause of major and violent conflicts. Whether it is Bosnia, Somalia or Ethiopia it is innocents who suffer. Somewhere due to natural calamities while at others man made. The major brunt is borne by women and children. We have seen in this century and in the past — when men became heroes they left behind widows.

Today we are at the threshold of the 21st century. We have to evolve strategies and agenda for the future course of action. How we women can remove the impediments and hurdles in our way to progress and to achieve our rightful position. Not for only few of us, but millions who have been deprived. We have also to play a major role in removing the suffering of the humankind. Only women who have seen the denial and discrimination, suppression and oppression can understand the sufferings of others better.

In all areas of tensions, conflicts and violence, women and their organizations have an important role to perform in the cause of peace. Because of the natural maternal instinct, women have a greater sensitivity for children and family. They are more effective in establishing peace, harmony and social well being.

I remember the words of great poet and thinker Khalil Gibran who said and I quote 'women opened the windows of eyes and the door of my spirit'. Unquote. Let us open the eyes of those who are still sleeping in the tranquility of ignorance.

While once again I welcome you here in India and thank all of you for your participation in today's function, I earnestly hope that at the end of the conference we disperse with definite decisions for furthering our cause. Let this conference be a turning point of our future.

Thank you.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA

Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Chairperson of the meeting of the Women Parliamentarians, Hon'ble President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Secretary-General of the I.P.U., Hon'ble Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee of the I.P.U., Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is a special occasion, a historic occasion, this august and at the same time charming assemblage of women Parliamentarians from all over the world meeting under the aegis of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. If one can see the empowerment of women at any one place it is here, for you are all representatives of your peoples empowered in democratic elections to guide the affairs of your respective countries.

As for myself I stand here a little perturbed, perhaps pleasantly perturbed, by the honour of having been asked to address you. Diderot, the French Philosopher and Encyclopedist, in his essays on woman wrote: "When one writes about Woman, one must steep one's pen in the colours of the rainbow, and scatter the dust from the butterflies' wings on the page. With every movement of one's hand a pearl must fall". That was on writing about women. What shall one do when speaking to an elite gathering of women Parliamentarians ? I shall simply say, with heart-felt sincerity, how delighted I am to welcome you all to this Conference and to my country.

I am glad that women Parliamentarians are holding a separate meeting of their own within the framework of IPU. It shows that women have come into their own in politics. They are determined to function within IPU in a concerted way on issues of direct interest to them. They are also keen to bring to bear upon IPU the view-point of women on broader issues of a general character. There is no doubt that need for this exists, especially in a world dominated by man, particularly in the world of politics. Plato once said that those who disdain to engage themselves in politics would have to pay the penalty of being ruled by those who are inferior to them. Of course, Plato had no need for women in his "Republic". There is, however, truth in what he said. If women disdain to engage themselves in politics, they will be ruled by men, often men who are inferior to them.

Women have been a rarity in politics and in Parliaments, notwithstanding a number of colourful and outstanding exceptions. I am told that only 11% of Parliamentarians in the world are women and that 3.5% of Cabinet Ministerial posts in the world are held by women. According to a study by the International Labour Organization the share of women in higher echelons of political and economic power is negligible and at the present rate it would take five centuries for them to be at par with men.

Politics hold the key to power in every major field of activity of the State. Without a share in political power women would find it difficult to get their due share be it in social, cultural, economic or professional fields. Women cannot reach such positions of power through the goodwill of men. They have to do so by their own efforts, organization and agitation, if necessary. In democracies they hold a powerful weapon — the right to vote. With proper organization and leadership it should be possible for them to ensure the election of a reasonable number of women to Parliaments, and also a number of men helpful to their cause. The cause of women is not something that is antagonistic to that of men and to the general public good. On the contrary it is at the root of social development, of the well-being of society as a whole. Jawaharlal Nehru, our first

Prime Minister, was fond of quoting a French intellectual who wrote: "if you want me to tell you what a nation is like, or what a social organization is like, tell me the position of women in that nation." Nehru told that "the greatest revolution in a country is the one that affects the status and the living conditions of its women." He advised women, long before he became the Prime Minister of India, to free themselves from the tyranny of man-made customs and laws to educate themselves not only for household duties and not to look upon marriage as woman's sole economic refuge.

The revolution that touched Indian women most profoundly was the non-violent civil disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi for gaining the independence of India. In 1930 Gandhiji issued a call to women to join the movement; they came forward in response to his call and went to jail in thousands. It is interesting to recall that in 1931 the Indian National Congress passed a resolution expressing its admiration and gratitude for the part they played in the struggle. It is due to this early involvement of women in the mass movement for independence that their cause did not take a separate feminist form in India, though within the Indian National Congress women's organizations and leaders were emphasizing specific problems concerning women. In consequence political rights like universal adult suffrage and some of the basic social and economic rights came to them with the country's independence without any kind of suffragette or feminist agitation as in the West. These were incorporated in the Constitution of India and special legislation was enacted later to invest them with equal rights with regard to marriage, divorce and property.

I should like to read out to you what Gandhiji said as early as 1918 on the status of women as he envisaged it: "Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in every minutest detail in the activities of man and she has equal right of freedom and liberty as he.... By sheer force of vicious custom, even the most ignorant and worthless men have been enjoying a superiority over women which they do not deserve and ought not to have. Many of our movements stop half way because of the condition of our women. Much of our work does not yield appropriate results; our lot is like that of the penny wise pound foolish trader who does not employ enough capital in his business." Gandhiji not only wanted equal status for women, but believed that without harnessing woman power no great work could be successfully carried out in society.

It is because of our enlightened nationalist movement the advanced ideas of Gandhi and Nehru and the progressive legislation carried out since independence that Indian women are able to play an important role in society today. It is well-known that we produced some great women who occupied high offices in Government and public life like Indira Gandhi, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Sarojini Naidu and a galaxy of others. Today we have 56 women MPs in our Parliament which is rather low representation. But among them are leading figures like Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Smt. Pratibha Patil, previous Deputy Chariman of Rajya Sabha. The first woman Deputy Chairman was Smt. Violet Alva, whose daughter-in-law Smt. Margaret Alva is now a Minister of State in the Government. The Lok Sabha has also distinguished lady Member like Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, Smt. Vijaya Raje Scindia, Smt. Basava Rajeshwari, Smt. Sukhbans Kaur, to mention a few. One of the important steps taken by the Government is to ensure reservation of 30% of seats for women in the elected local self-government bodies like Panchayats. This is an important measure that would politically empower women at the level of grass-roots democratic institutions and prepare them for future leadership in public life.

With all this kind of progress I am afraid that much has yet to be done to uplift Indian women to an effectively higher status in politics and society. Literacy and educational levels among women in India are still very low and they are not in a position to avail of the rights and benefits conferred upon them by legislation and the policies of the Government. Many of the old social evils like the dowry system still persist and atrocities against women, like in several other parts of the world, have assumed deplorable proportions. It is a paradoxical and shameful phenomenon. When the world is supposed to be getting more advanced, educated and cultured

a new barbarism has risen with reckless violence perpetrating atrocities against women and children. Women are the first victims of any sort of war and conflict; they are also the first sufferers of cruelty and discrimination by man in times of peace. I am glad that you would be discussing this question of violence against women in order to provide Parliamentary support to the United Nations Universal Declaration on Violence against Women. IPU, with the active nucleus of its women members, can play a crucial role in arousing world public opinion against the menace of this new barbarism. I have quoted Mahatama Gandhi in this address. I must confess that India, the land of Gandhi, has a major responsibility to deal sternly with violence against women in our own country and to give a lead to the fight against it in the world under the banner of the United Nations.

I understand that IPU has a Plan of Action to Correct Current Imbalances in the Participation of Men and Women in Politics. You would be discussing the Action Plan in your meeting. I have dwelt earlier upon the importance of women's participation and leadership in the political process. To achieve this at higher levels women Parliamentarians will have to act in an organized manner, and the male of the species in the Parliaments of the world will have to encourage, co-operate and help. May I say here that at the grass-roots level of the electoral process in India I have found refreshingly active interest by women in the electoral process. I have been touched by the way women dressed in their simple best queue up at the polling booths from early morning to cast their votes at elections. Theirs is a sincere participation with the glow of faith and hope in their eyes. And once the elections are over the women expect their MPs to do something for those who have voted them to the Parliament.

The other day a Member of the Parliament of India hailing from the Punjab told me an experience of his. A lady from his constituency telephoned him and told him that there was a heap of garbage thrown on the road right in front of her house. She wanted her M.P. to have the garbage removed from the front of her house. The M.P. told her that it was simple job and she could have telephoned the local Sanitary Inspector to have it removed. Pat came the retort from the lady constituent: "Oh, I did not want to go up that high." The result was that the Hon'ble Member of Parliament had to have the garbage removed. Here is an example of an active woman constitutent and a responsive Member of Parliament. I believe that both women voters and women Parliamentarians are active and persistent players in democratic politics. I ardently wish that the proportion of women in Parliaments and international bodies be steadily increased to 50 per cent during the next decade as was suggested by the Inter-Parliamentary Symposium on the Participation of Women in Political and Parliamentary Decision Making Process held in 1989. May I also wish all success for your deliberations at this meeting.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL, SPEAKER, LOK SABHA AND PRESIDENT OF THE 89TH IPU CONFERENCE

Hon. Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, Mrs. K.R. Narayanan, Hon. Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon. President, Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall, Hon. Ministers, Hon. Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have great pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to the women delegates of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

We hope their stay in India would be comfortable and meaningful.

Women in India and the world over are equal to men in all respects. Life itself is impossible without their cooperation.

In fact, in some respects, women are more effective than men. In India, it is popularly held that behind every successful man, there stands a woman, who is a mine of wisdom and tower of strength. Generally, these women have been the mothers of the successful men.

India had a proud privilege of having a woman Parliamentarian who became a very effective Prime Minister and who sacrificed her life for the unity and integrity of the country and who always stood by the side of the weaker sections of the society throughout the world.

The Women Members of Parliament in India have given a very good account of themselves. They have generally done better than the male Members.

However, it is difficult to say that full justice has been done to the better half of the society. That has been so, because of the traditions, wrongly held popular views, and may be, because of the physical frailties. The situation should change. And justice should be done to this half of the population.

If justice is not done to them, there is very little chance of our doing real and substantial justice to others who are suffering from injustices done to them by the historical facts and the Society.

So, conscious efforts need be made to bring women at par with men in all respects.

There are many problems, being faced by the Humanity, which can be better tackled by womenfolk. In the areas of providing knowledge and wisdom, in the field of art and culture and in matters relating to environment, women can contribute more splendidly than probably men.

In creating conditions conducive for cooperation, women can play a very impressive and useful role. In giving Peace and Tranquillity to Humanity, they can be of very great help.

In creating a world family, they would prove to be of pivotal importance.

Let us hope that these noble objectives would move nearer to realisation through the efforts of this Conference. We wish and pray for the success of this Conference.

Thank you.

President of Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall addressing the Women delegates.

A delegate addressing the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The Vice-President and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker Lok Sabha and Sir Michael Marshall at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians attending the 89th Inter Parliamentary Union Conference.

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah chairing the Meeting of the Women Parliamentarians on the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

A view of meeting of the Women Parliamentarians.

A view of delegates attending the meeting of the Women Parliamentarians.

Another view of the delegates attending the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Shri K.R. Narayanan, The Vice-President and Chairman Rajya Sabha, conversing with the Women delegates at the inauguration of the Women Parliamentarians Meeting.

Some of the Women delegates at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians attending the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

CHAPTER X

ASGP MEETINGS

The Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) is a consultative body of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. As is customary, at the time of the 89th IPU Conference, the Association held its meetings from 12 to 16 April, 1993 in Kautilya Hall, Hotel Samrat. Members from 57 countries, besides substitutes and observers, attended the meeting.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of ASGP was held in the afternoon of 12 April 1993, in Hunt Room, Hotel Samrat. At the time of the Spring Session 1993 of ASGP, the Executive Committee consisted of President Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (Senegal), First Vice-President Sir Clifford Boulton (UK), Second Vice-President, Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa (Italy), Mr. Hermen Nys (Belgium), Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya (Pakistan), Mr. Wojciech Sawicki (Poland), Mr. Samuel Jacobson (Israel), Mr. Jacques Ollelprune (France) and Dr.Saleh Alzu'bi (Jordan) as members. Sir David Lidderdale (UK) and Mr. Gunnar Hoff (Norway) were the honorary members. Members of the Executive Committee of ASGP including the President and the Vice-Presidents are elected for six sessions.

Nominations for membership of the following which had been considered by the Executive Committee were approved by the Association : Mr. Luis Aquiles Moreno C. (Venezuela), Mr. Pinit Arayasiri and Mr. Chamnopng Suampracam (Thailand), Mr. Chris Balje (The Netherlands), Mr. Milisav Milenkovica and Mr. Vukic Bulatovic (Federal Republic of Yogoslavia), Dr. Abner Ramos de Pina (Cape Verde), Mr. Michel Meva'a M'Eboutou (Cameroon), Mr. George F. Mlawa (Tanzania), Mr. Edgardo E. Tumangan (Philippines), Mr. Nicholas Vlachos (Greece) and Dr. Heinz Wasserbauer (Austria). On 16 April, 1993, the Association approved the following further nominations which had been considered by the Executive Committee. Mr. Andres Crespo Reinberg, (Ecuador); Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Galal and Mr. Mohamed Alim (Sudan); Mr. Andre Kilian (Namibia); Mr. Vladimir Kotchev (Bulgaria); Mrs. Constance Mompei (Botswana).

Opening Session

The first sitting of ASGP was held at 1530 hours on 12 April, 1993 with Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (Senegal) in the Chair. The President of the Association declared the Session open and thanked the Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and their colleagues for the organisation of the meeting and for their tireless work and generous hospitality. The President drew particular attention to the presence amongst the delegates of Shri S.L. Shakdher, a former President of the Association. This was followed by plenary sitting on the same day and subsequently, both in the forenoons and afternoons from 13 to 16 April, 1993.

Presentation on Parliamentary System of India

In the afternoon of the opening day of the meeting, Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal, Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha gave a presentation about the parliamentary system in India. Shri Jain drew attention to the importance of the Constitution in the Indian political system

and its various provisions with regard to fundamental rights, separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary, procedure of amendment etc. He, *inter alia*, threw light on the new departmentally-related standing committees, indicating that among the reasons for their establishment was the need for detailed consideration of Government's proposals for expenditure and the recognition that many issues could be deliberated and decided in the Committees in an objective manner without taking party line.

Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal highlighted liveliness of the Question Hour, the role of the President and Vice-President of India and the power and functions of Rajya Sabha.

Shri S.L. Shakdher shared his long experience about the functioning of the Parliamentary system in India particularly referring to actual working of both the Houses of Parliament.

The keen interest of a number of delegates in the Indian Parliamentary system was reflected in the searching questions on various aspects of the committee system, televising proceedings of Parliament, Procedure of constitutional amendment, Budget etc.

Mr. John Sweetman(United Kingdom) enquired about the details of the working of the new committees, while Mr. Rahatullah Khan Jarral (Pakistan) asked about the sanctions available in respect of compelling the attendance of witnesses and of other evidence. Mr. Luis Madureira (Portugal) wanted to know about the rules relating to television and Mr. Benvenuto (Italy) asked whether amendments to the Constitution required a special majority. Mr. Paul Hayter (United Kingdom) enquired about the experience of televising proceedings in respect of the education of the public and in respect of behaviour of members. Mr. Mohamad Ahmed Galal (Sudan) asked about the relationship between Parliament and the Ministry of Finance in respect of the Parliamentary Budget. Shri Jain replied to these enquiries.

Later, on 13 April, 1993 a visit to Parliament House for the delegates was organised which was followed by a Question-Answer session. Subsequently, a lunch for participants was hosted by Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Topics discussed

The following subjects were discussed in the meetings of the ASGP :

(a) *Immunity of Witnesses before Parliamentary Committees*

A paper on 'Immunity of Witnesses before Parliamentary Committees' was presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Demaree J.B. Raval (Philippines). Introducing the paper he observed that his interest on the issue had arisen from a recent case in Manila concerning acquisition of properties of former President Marcos. One case had come before the Supreme Court while it was also being considered by Parliament. The Supreme Court ruled that it could not hear the matter concurrently, while it was being considered in Parliament, because of the danger of the two authorities coming to differing conclusions, and left the matter to Parliament. However, the key witnesses before the Senate Committee which was considering the matter refused to answer the relevant questions claiming the right not to incriminate themselves. As the Senate had no power to great immunity, the inquiry could not proceed and the matter reverted to the Supreme Court. In an earlier case a witness had refused to answer : the Senate had held him to be in contempt and had placed him in detention. The witness finally gave way. Committee hearings of this nature could be crucial to the work of Parliament and the matter was, therefore, worthy of further investigation.

It was agreed that the Association should proceed to consideration of a draft questionnaire at the next session.

(b) *Institute of Parliamentary Studies*

The ASGP had a fruitful discussion on the subject of Institute of Parliamentary Studies which had been

proposed by Mr. Mario Farachio (Uruguay) at the autumn 1992 Session (Stockholm). Mr. Farachio drew attention to the fundamental importance for Parliament of being as well informed as possible and on the need for them to be capable of following structural changes. This led to a need for information, accompanied by theoretical and analytical studies as well as a knowledge of comparable legislation. He emphasised the need and the possibility of universalisation of the information necessary for the work of Parliament. He stressed that the proposed Institute of Parliamentary Studies would be more devoted to in-depth studies with a long-term interest. He further said that it would undertake deep and analytical work concentrating on two elements : legislative studies and wider studies which might not in a formal sense lead to laws or Bills. It would thus have a field of activity which was slightly deviated from daily Parliamentary work. He also evoked the possibility that such an institute might undertake contracts with world-wide study centres and private institutes.

The following delegates participated in the discussion : Mr. Klaus Pohle (European Parliament); Mr. Michel Meva'a M'Eboutou (Cameroon); Dr. Saleh Alzubi (Jordan); Mr. Luis Madureira (Portugal); Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus); Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland); Mr. Khan Ahmad Goraya (Pakistan); Mr. Wojciech Sawicki (Poland); Dr. Horacio D. Catalurda (Uruguay); and Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (President) (Senegal). Mr. Samy Mahran (Egypt) submitted a speech in writing about the experience of the General Secretariat of the People's Assembly in this respect.

(c) *The Effect of the Electoral System on the Working of Parliament*

The Association also took up for discussion the subject "the Effect of the Electoral System on the Working of Parliament". The Rapporteur, Dr. Saleh Alzubi (Jordan) said that it was very important to examine the link between the procedures and constitutional practices of Parliament on the one hand and the real political change on the other. In his paper he drew attention to the historical background of the Jordanian system and the working of the system based on the separation of powers between the Executive headed by the King, the Legislature and the Judiciary. In the paper, Dr. Alzu'bi dealt in detail with the electoral system prevalent in Jordan and said that further changes in the electoral law were under consideration. Mr. Wojciech Sawicki (Poland) indicated some of the features of the Polish system. The other participants were Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus); Mr. Paul Hayter (United Kingdom); Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (President) (Senegal) and Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa (Italy).

It was agreed that in the light of the study which had been undertaken by the IPU itself on electoral systems across the different member countries, there was no need to proceed to a questionnaire and further study of this subject in the Association but that the paper and debate would be published in the Association's Journal.

Mr. Samy Mahran (Egypt) submitted a speech in writing highlighting the effect of election systems on true representation, on the freedom of Members of Parliament, on the traditional functions of Parliament and the impact of party politics on the working of Parliament.

(d) *Supranational Integration and Subsidiarity*

The subject "Supranational Integration and Subsidiarity"was also discussed in the meeting of the ASGP. The Rapporteur Mr. Guillaume Wagener (Luxembourg) spoke on the principle of subsidiarity, taking as an example the European Community and examining the effects on the member-states and on their Parliaments. After an introduction, he *inter alia* discussed the origins of the principle followed by its definition and its effects and criteria, clarification of the concepts of "community" "exclusive" "shared" and "national" competences, the situation with respect to legislative initiative, and the relations with the national Executives and Legislatures. At the end of the presentation some observations were made by Mr. John Clerc (Switzerland) and Dr. Rudolf Kabel (Germany).

Draft Reports / Questionnaries Presented

1. Second Draft Report on Relations between Chambers in Bicameral Parliaments

On 13 April, 1993, Mr. Bill Corbett (Canada), on behalf of Mrs.Griffith, presented at the ASGP meeting the Second Draft Report on Relations between Chambers in Bicameral Parliament. Mr. Corbett noted that the second draft report reflected the suggestions made during the discussions held at Stockholm and additional responses received since then from Ireland, Japan, Jordan and Thailand. He described the principal elements of the report. This was followed by a general discussion when points were raised with respect to the relative sitting-time of the two Chambers in UK, Switzerland, and Belgium. Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom); Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland) and Mr. Herman Nys (Belgium) participated in the general discussion. There was also a detailed discussion on the report in respect of drafting points concerned with the quorum, power of one Chamber over the other, dissolution of the two Chambers and the number of Senators appointed for life in Italy. The participants were Mr. Benvenuto (Italy), Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland) and Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa (Italy).

2. Draft Questionnaire on Procedures for the Reform of Standing Orders/Rules of Procedure

In the afternoon of 13 April, the Draft Questionnaire on Procedures for the Reform of Standing orders/ Rules of Procedure was presented by the Rapporteur Mr. Manuel Alba Navarro (Spain). This was followed by a detailed discussion and Mr. Alba Navarro replied to the various points that were raised by the participants. The participants were: Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom); Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland); Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (President) (Senegal); Mr. Demaree J.B. Raval (Philippines); Mr. Georges Moulias (WEU); Mr. Bill Corbett (Canada) and Dr. Rudolf Kabel (Germany).

3. First Draft Report on Reform of Parliament

On 15 April, 1993, the Rapporteur, Mrs. Ammemarie Huber (Switzerland), presented the first draft report on "Reform of Parliament". Mrs. Huber said that the inquiry into the reform of Parliament had taken a wider view, covering the totality of developments in the laws, rules and Parliamentary practices in the twenty-one countries which replied to the questionnaire. She put forth before the meeting the findings of the inquiry on issues whether reforms had been recently decided upon or were still being discussed and whether reform was considered as a permanent process, motives for reform and the areas of reform, the level of reform (constitutional,legal or practical rules) and the competent organs to prepare and agree to the reforms, and the role of officials in initiating reform of Parliament.

A number of observations were made in the general discussion. The participants were : Mr. Paul Hayter (United Kingdom), Mr. Sean Rota (New Zealand); Mr. Anders Forsberg (Sweden); Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus); Mr. Herman Nys (Belgium); Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa (Italy); Mr. Murumba Werunga (Kenya); Mr. Wojciech Sawicki (Poland); Mr. John Clerc (Switzerland) and Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom).

Mrs. Huber replied to each of these observations.

In the detailed discussion on the questionnaire the speakers who took part were : Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom); Mr. Herman Nys (Belgium); Mr. Bill Corbett (Canada); Dr. Rudolf Kabel (Germany); Mr. Michael Meva'a M. Eboutou (Cameroon); Mr. Benvenuto (Italy); Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus) and

Mr. Murumba Werunga (Kenya). Mrs. Huber replied to each of these observations. The Rapporteur was accordingly invited to prepare a revised draft of the Report to be presented to the autumn session in Canberra.

4. First Draft Report on Independence and Neutrality of the Parliamentary Service

On 15 April, 1993, Rapporteur Dato Wan Zahir (Malaysia) introduced the first draft report on the "Independence and Neutrality of the Parliamentary Service." The Rapporteur noted that there had been replies from twenty-nine countries involving thirty-four different Chambers, plus the European Parliament, and that a subsequent reply had been received from the German Bundestat. A further anonymous reply had also been received.

In the general debate on the Report, the following members took part : Mr. J. Nethercote (Australia); Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom); Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus); Mr. Paul Hayter (United Kingdom); Mr. Luis Madureira (Portugal); Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (President) (Senegal).

In the detailed discussion on the report, the following members took part : Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland); Mr. Wojciech Sawicki (Poland); Dr.Rudolf Kabel (Germany); Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa (Italy); Mr. Michael Meva'a M'Eboutou (Cameroon); Mr. J. Nethercote (Australia) and a number of detailed corrections were accordingly proposed.

The first draft report was agreed to. The Rapporteur was asked to make the necessary corrections so that the second draft could be considered at the next session.

5. First Draft Report on Independent Members

Presenting the first draft report on "Independent Members" to the Association, the Rapporteur, Dr.Rudolf Kabel (Germany) said that the role played by independent Members in the various Parliaments differed widely. This was probably due to several factors : in particular the role of parliamentary groups of parties in the parliamentary process, but also the number of independents, the provisions of electoral law, and parliamentary traditions. As regards the reasons for existence of independent Members listed in the questionnaire (election results, leaving or being expelled from one's parliamentary group), practically all the replies mention Members leaving or being expelled from their parliamentary group. In the majority of replies the results of elections were confirmed as being one reason for the existence of independent Members. This was conceivable where the Member concerned was the only successful candidate of his party or the pertinent provisions did not permit the formation of a parliamentary group because the minimum number of Members were not reached. In addition, it was of course possible that a candidate stood for election as an independent and won a seat. Only a few Parliaments had rules of procedure or other legal provisions that expressly regulated the status and rights of independent Members. An independent Member faced the question of how to effectively pursue his own interests and exercise his parliamentary rights. One possibility consisted in grouping independent Members together in a separate parliamentary group or similar body or in allowing them to form such a body.

Three conclusions could be drawn from the report :

1. The existence of independent Members does not give rise to any extraordinary difficulties as regards the conduct of parliamentary business in particular.
2. The participatory rights granted to independent Members under the Rules of Procedure or in parliamentary practice differ widely in the various Parliaments. This applies in particular where parliamentary rights are not granted to a parliamentary group or a specific minimum number of Members but to the individual Member, whether he belongs to a parliamentary group or not.
3. Where independent Members are automatically grouped together in a separate organisation (Mixed groups, "reunion administrative") or where they are considered to form a unit in respect of certain matters (*e.g.* appointment of committee members, speaking time in the plenary), this raises the

interesting question in each individual instance as to whether they are treated in the same way as parliamentary groups and whether the wide variety of political views among independent Members is taken into consideration.

In the general discussion, the following speakers took part : Mr. Bill Corbett (Canada); Mr. Klaus Pohle (European Parliament); Mrs. Annemarie Huber (Switzerland); Mr. John Sweetman and Mr. Paul Hayter (United Kingdom); Mr. Pr. Silvio Traversa and Mr. Benvenuto (Italy) and Mr. Anders Forsberg (Sweden).

In the detailed discussion on the report, the speakers who participated were : Mr. Michel Meva'a M'Eboutou (Cameroon); Mr. Takis Hadjioannou (Cyprus); Mr. Castiglia (Italy); Mr. Bill Corbett (Canada); Mr. Benvenuto (Italy); Mr. John Sweetman (United Kingdom) and Mr. Anders Forsberg (Sweden).

The Rapporteur was asked to make the appropriate revisions to the Report for presentation of the future draft at the autumn session.

Communication from Assistant Secretary-General of the IPU on the work of Programme for the Study and Promotion of Representative Institutions

In his communication to the ASGP on the work of the "Programme for the Study and Promotion of Representative Institutions", the Assistant Secretary-General of the IPU, Mr. Anders Johnsson, spoke about three areas of development. The first was election. Since the meeting in Stockholm, the programme finished its study, "Electoral Systems : a world-wide survey". They had also begun a study on the definition of the free and fair elections, which was being undertaken with joint funding from the United Nations. They were also considering the report which had been received from the consultants on the future of the publication, "Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections". Links with the United Nations on electoral matters and electoral assistance were increasing. Discussions with national Parliaments on their work in this field indicated that Parliaments were not very active although many individual parties were, said Mr. Johnsson.

Secondly, further work had been undertaken in developing the technical cooperation programme. This reflected the fact that electoral assistance should not stop with the announcement of the election results, since a new Parliament or a Government needed continued assistance. He said that IPU's assistance had been sought or was being provided or being considered in respect of many countries. As the IPU's resources were limited, the IPU was looking for help in setting up a standing list of potential experts to avoid having to look around each time a request arose. Mr. Johnsson informed that the United Nations Development Programme had now agreed to a funding programme to assist the IPU in this area.

Thirdly, he reported on the work of the Consultative Committee of experts. Reviews, which had been commenced earlier, were continuing on the future of the publication, "Parliaments of the World" and on the proposed data-base of parliamentary information.

This elicited a number of questions and suggestions from Mr. Doudou Ndiaye (Senegal); Mr. Anders Forsberg (Sweden); and Mr. Heinrich Klebes (Council of Europe).

The President reported that the accounts for 1992 had been certified and showed a small surplus. He also reported that the new subjects proposed for discussion had been incorporated in the draft agenda for the next session of the Association at Canberra in September 1993.

Finally, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha thanked the members of the Association for their participation in the session.

Thanking the host Secretaries-General Shri C.K.Jain and Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal, and their colleagues for the welcome accorded to them, the President of the Association declared the session closed.

CHAPTER XI

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CONFERENCE

Publications brought out

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Conference, on 12 April, 1993, President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma released a Book titled *'Triumph of Democracy — An Overview of World Parliaments'*, brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Book carries articles from Presiding Officer, Parliementarians and Clerks/Secretaries-General of various Parliaments, eminent Indian Parliamentarians and other dignitaries on different aspects of the functioning of Parliamentary democracy. Besides, it also highlights the working of the parliamentary institutions in all the member-countries of the IPU with particular emphasis on their political and electoral systems.

The President also released the Special Number of the *Journal of Parliamentary Information,* the quarterly publication of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. It carries articles which delve deep into all aspects of India's democratic functioning. Coming from eminent personalities who have been closely associated with parliamentary institutions, these articles reflect truely the dynamics of our parliamentary democratic polity.

Earlier on 11 April, 1993, at the inauguration of the Women Parliamentarians' Meet, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan released two special volumes entitled, *'Women Parliamentarians in India'* and *'The Union and State Legislatures in India'*, brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The first volume highlights the role and contributions of women parliamentarians in India and also profiles all the 289 Women Parliamentarians of India right from the Central Legislative Assembly days. The second book briefly gives the historical evolution, organisational structure and the practices and procedures prevailing in the Union and all the State and Union Territory Legislatures in India.

Several other useful publications were issued to the delegates at the Conference. These include : *Conference Guide; India — Some Facts*; and *India and the IPU — A Fact Sheet.* The *Conference Guide* prepared by the Host Group in accordance with article 8(b) of the Agreement entered into with the IPU Secretariat, Geneva contains information relating to inaugural ceremony, meeting rooms, agenda, detailed general programme, registration and information about various events and other matters relating to the Conference helpful to the participants. The Guide was brought out in both English and French versions.

The booklet *India — Some Facts* provides statistical information regarding the social and economic conditions prevailing in India besides touching briefly on various aspects of Indian culture. The *Fact Sheet* gives a brief outline of the activities of the IPU and India and provides statistical information relating to social and economic indicators in respect of all the member countries of the IPU.

Release of Commemorative Postal Stamp and Commemorative Coins

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Women Parliamentarians' Meet, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan released three commemorative coins in the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 and a postal stamp in the denomination of Re. 1.

The Special Postage Stamp issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India, to mark the historic occasion, depicts the Logo of the Conference, which carried the photographs of the magnificent building of Parliament House (*Sansad Bhawan*) and the IPU Logo with the dates of the Conference. In the outer circle, the "89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference New Delhi, India" has been inset clockwise in three languages — Hindi, English and French.

Banquets

The delegates, observers, accompanying persons and their spouses were the guests of honour at several receptions. President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma hosted a reception in honour of the delegates on 12 April, 1993 in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

A banquet was hosted by Vice-President of India and Chairman Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 14 April at Hotel Ashok.

On 15 April, Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao hosted a reception in honour of the delegates at Hyderabad House.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Conference, Shri Shivraj V. Patil hosted a banquet on 16 April at Hotel Ashok.

Earlier on 11 April, 1993 a dinner was hosted by the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptulla in the poolside lawns of Hotel Ashok in honour of women delegates to the Conference.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources and the Leader of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation, Shri V.C. Shukla, also hosted a lunch for the delegates on 12 April.

Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and Secretary-General, Lok Sabha hosted a lunch on 13 April in the honour of ASGP Members.

Cultural Programmes

Several cultural programmes were organised to the delegates' delight on 12 April, 1993 itself, the inaugural day of the Conference. A rousing reception in traditional Indian style was accorded to the delegates and dignitaries from India when they arrived at Gate No. 1 of Parliament House to attend the function. Nearly 350 students of different schools presented a colourful welcome and folk dances. The students were waving the national flags of various countries around the lawns between Gate No. 1 and Central Hall to welcome the delegates.

As soon as they entered Gate No. 1, girls dressed in different bridal costumes of different States of India greeted them by showering petals and offering rose buds. An impressive rangoli pattern was laid in typical Indian style down the stairs to the lawn, encircled by nursery school children, who were attired as butterflies. On both sides of the lawn, dances were being performed by two groups of 25-30 children. While, on one side of the lawn, the Rajasthani Spring Dance was being performed, on the other it was Radha-Krishna Brij Dance, popularly known as *Rass Lila* of Lord Krishna.

After the Conference, the students and the teachers were honoured at a special function presided over by Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Certificates and souvenirs were given to all the participants.

A dance performance by Sonal Mansingh arranged for the delegates at Hotel Ashok on 14 April was to their heart's desire. Internationally acclaimed, Sonal Mansingh is perhaps the only dancer in India today to have mastery in two most important streams of classical dances — Bharatnatyam and Odissi. Her performance preceded the dinner hosted by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in honour of the delegates.

A Sarod recital was performed by the world-renowned Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan on 16 April 1993. Shri Khan has given a new meaning and dimension to the Sarod recital and has evolved a style that is conventional in technique but highly individualistic in spirit. His approach to the art is orthodox and traditional and yet creative and progressive. His performance was greatly appreciated by the delegates. The recital was followed by a dinner in honour of the delegates by Speaker, Lok Sabha.

A very fascinating programme of *Kal-Belia* dance by the traditional artistes of Rajasthan was also arranged on the occasion before the dinner by Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha.

Meetings of Delegates with high Indian Dignitaries

Many delegates attending the Conference snatched some time out of their otherwise busy schedules and called on the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and other dignitaries :

Meetings of Delegates with Hon'ble President

While His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt and the entire delegation from Jordan called on President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma in Rashtrapati Bhawan on 14 April 1993, H.E. Dr. Mose Tjitendero, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia made a courtesy call on the President in Rashtrapati Bhawan on 15 April.

Meetings of Delgates with Hon. Prime Minister

On 16 April, 1993, Sir Michael Marshall, delegate from Great Britain and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, called on the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao at his residence.

Meetings of Delegates with Hon'ble Speaker

On 13 April, 1993, the entire delegations from Lebanon, Jordan, Romania and Cuba; H.E. Mr. Valdis Birkavs, Deputy Chairman of Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia; H.E. Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan; Dr. Noorjehan, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Pakistan; H.E. Mr. Hoang Bich Son, President of the Vietnamese Group of IPU, Member, Standing Commitee of National Assembly and Chairman of External Affairs, Committee of National Assembly of Vietnam and all delegates from Vietnam called on Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil at Hotel Ashok.

On 14 April, H.E. Mr. Cavaye Yeguje Djibril, Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon; H.E. Mr. Radulovic Milos, President of the Chamber of Republics of Yugoslavia; Mrs. Milena Vlahovic, Ambassador, Yugoslavia; the entire delegation from Israel; and H.E. Mr. Ivan Gasparovic, Chairman of the National Council of Slovak Republic called on Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil at Hotel Ashok.

The entire delegations from Sudan, Kuwait and United Kingdom made a courtesy call on the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil at Hotel Ashok on 15 April, 1993.

On 16 April, 1993, the delegates from Indonesia namely, H.E. Mr. Tatisumiyati Darsoyo, Mr. Sateh Effendi, Mr. Paulus Weto and Mr. Riado Simand Juntak called on the Hon. Speaker at Hotel Ashok.

Meetings of Delegates with Ministers

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh met Mr. Ion Solcanu, Senator and Leader of Delegation (Romania); Mr. Valdis Birkavs, Vice-Chairman of the Supreme Council (Latvia); Mr. Amin

El-Hafez, Member of the National Assembly and Leader of the Delegation (Lebanon); Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker, National Assembly and Leader of the Delegation (Pakistan); Mr. Milos Radulovic, President, Chamber of Republics and Leader of the Delegation (Yugoslavia); Mr. Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Speaker, Jatiya Sansad and Leader of Delegation (Bangladesh); Mr. M.H. Mohamed, Speaker of the Parliament and Leader of Delegation (Sri Lanka); Mrs. Zinaida Leonitevna Fedotova, Deputy Chairperson of the Supreme Soviet (Kazakhstan); Dr. Khamleing Pholsena, Leader of the Delegation (Laos); Mr. Hoang Bich Son, Leader of the Delegation (Vietnam); Mr. Malcolm Colston, Senator (Australia); Mr. Peter Gresham, M.P. (New Zealand); Mr. Yaulab, M.P. (Papua New Guinea); Mr. Li Mong Ho, General Secretary, Supreme People's Assembly (Democratic People's Republic of Korea); Mr. Chung Soo Park, M.P. and Former Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee (Republic of Korea); Mr. K. Ishiwata, M.P. (Japan); and Mr. David Hartin, Vice-President European Parliament, at Hotel Ashok on 14 April 1993 and hosted tea in their honour.

Mrs. Leni Fischer, Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Member of the Deutscher Bundestag called on the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri S.B. Chavan at Hotel Ashok on 17 April, 1993.

The Minister of Commerce, Shri Pranab Mukherjee met the entire delegation from Romania at Udyog Bhawan and heads of delegations of about 50 National Groups at lunch at Hotel Taj Mahal on 16 April, 1993.

The entire delegation from Botswana called on the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Balram Jakhar at Krishi Bhawan on 13 April 1993.

The entire delegation from Norway called on the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Satish Sharma at Shastri Bhawan on 16 April, 1993.

Sir Michael Marshall (UK), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council called on the Minister of State of Communications, Shri Sukh Ram at Sanchar Bhawan on 13 April, 1993.

Meetings of Delegates with Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha

The entire delegation from Cuba made a courtesy call on Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla at Hotel Ashok on 12 April, 1993.

On 13 April, 1993, the entire delegations from United States, Cyprus and Yemen, Algeria, France and Kuwait called on Dr. Heptulla at Hotel Ashok, while the delegate from Tunisia, Mrs. Nazeeha Mazhood met her the next day.

Spouses Programme

The host Secretariat arranged a six-day programme for the spouses of the delegates to the 89th IPU Conference. The Spouses' Programme—from 12 to 17 April, 1993 — was primarily a sight-seeing programme in and around New Delhi.

Around 150 spouses came for the IPU Conference. While the delegates remained busy with the official business, spouses were taken to various places of importance around Delhi. About 120-130 spouses on an average used to attend the Spouses Programme every day. Six luxury air-conditioned buses were made available for them.

On 12 April the spouses were taken round the Sacred Heart Cathedral and Gandhi Smriti. At the sacred Heart Cathedral, His Grace Alan de Lastic, Archbishop of Delhi, explained the basic tenets of Hinduism and Christianity to the spouses. Spouses were also shown round the Cathedral and its historicity was explained to them. At Gandhi Smriti the spouses were enthralled with the pictures and tableaux of the life and times of the Father of the Nation. They were also shown the special enclosure where Mahatma Gandhi breathed ' last.

As per programme on 13 April, the spouses visited the Bahai House of Temple, Indira Gandhi Memorial, Arts and Crafts Museum and the National Museum. At Bahai Temple, Director of the Bahai House of worship, explained the basic tenets of the sect. Also, a special prayer meeting was held for the spouses and the accompanying persons in the Prayer Hall. At Indira Gandhi Memorial, the spouses were shown photographs of Smt. Indira Gandhi at various stages of her life: her childhood, her participation in freedom struggle, her active role in politics, etc. They also saw the spot where she was assassinated. A special show of Rajasthani art and craft was arranged for the spouses during their visit to the Arts and Crafts Museum at Pragati Maidan. The arts and crafts of various tribal regions were also displayed. The spouses also had an occasion to see the precious collections in various sections of the National Museum.

On Wednesday, the 14 April the spouses were taken to Raj Ghat where they paid homage to the 'Father of the Nation'; Lal Mandir — a magnificent Jain Temple with a bird hospital — where they observed how the sick and disabled birds were treated with care, love and compassion in accordance with the teachings of Jainism; the historic Red Fort, where they went round Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas and the Museum where old ornaments and costumes of the Mughal period were on display; *Ahimsa Sthal* of Lord Mahavira, where the spouses evinced keen interest in the basic tenets of Jainism and the teachings of Lord Mahavira. At Qutab Minar, they were apprised by the Director, Archaeological Survey of India about the historicity and importance of the 727-metre high Minar as also the Iron Pillar erected by the Great King, Ashoka.

The Spouses were given a rousing welcome by the Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly and senior officials of the Haryana Government during their visit to Suraj Kund (in Haryana) on 15 April as part of their sight-seeing programme. They were explained about the importance of the Sun Temple. Later on they were taken to the Crafts Mela where special shows and a cultural programme were arranged. They were charmed by the folk dancers from Rajasthan and Haryana. Many of them also took to the fancy of enjoying camel and elephant riding. Impressed by *Mehndi*, a ritual ornamentation widely prevalent in India, a number of spouses had their palms painted with *Mehndi* in different intricate patterns. In fact, the spouses enjoyed every moment of their visit to Suraj Kund.

The next day, on 16 April, the spouses were taken for shopping to different State Emporia in Delhi, which represented India's arts and crafts in its varied form. The spouses also visited the Central Cottage Industries Emporium — a shoppers' paradise, situated at Janpath.

On 17 April, 1993, the final day of the Conference, some interesting programmes were organised for the spouses. While in the morning, they were taken to Jantar Mantar Observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh of Jaipur, in the afternoon they had an opportunity to witness a demonstration by renowned beautician, Smt. Shahnaz Hussain on the use of herbal products.

As expected the spouses had a very memorable experience and were indeed overwhelmed by the diversity of the culture, religion and crafts of India.

Post-Conference Tour to Agra

Extensive arrangements were made to ensure that the delegates had some moments of relaxation after about a week's hectic schedule. Following a decision to take the distinguished guests to a place of tourist attraction as well as of historical importance outside Delhi, a day's trip to Agra was arranged. A large number of delegates, observers and spouses joined the post-Conference tour.

A special 'Shatabdi' train carrying the delegates left Nizamuddin Railway Station at 6.50 a.m. reaching Agra at 8.50 a.m. on 18 April, 1993. It returned to the Nizamuddin Railway Station the same day at 7.15 p.m. starting from Agra Cantt. Railway Station at 5.15 p.m. All the delegates were divided country-wise in eight bogies in the train. As far as possible the groupings were done on the basis of languages of their country. This arrangement was followed in the coaches at Agra also, which was notified through daily Bulletins during the

Conference and was also distributed to the delegates at the Nizamuddin Railway Station. Earlier, the delegates were taken to the Station from their hotels by the concerned liaison officers in ITDC coaches.

The highest standard of cleanliness in the train as well as on the Railway Stations was ensured. Newspapers and magazines were also provided in the train.

Extensive video coverage, photo coverage and media coverage of this visit were made by the officials of Doordarshan, AIR, PIB, Photo Division and Films Division and several correspondents of newspapers and news agencies who accompanied the delegates.

Regarding security arrangements, special provision was made for 'Special Power' before the running of the Special train. Accordingly, the regular 'Shatabdi' train running half-an-hour before the Special train acted as 'Special Power'. Elaborate security measures were taken in Agra also.

At Agra, elaborate arrangements had been made to give a rousing welcome to the visiting delegates. The Speaker of U.P. Vidhan Sabha, Shri Keshri Nath Tripathi, hosted a lunch in their honour. All the delegates were divided in two groups, *viz.* Group 'A' and Group 'B'. Group 'A' first visited 'The Taj' and after taking their lunch at the hotel went to Fateh Pur Sikri and from there returned to Agra Cantt. Railway Station directly, while Group 'B' first visited Fateh Pur Sikri and then after lunch went to see the 'Taj' and came back to the station direct. The distinguished guests were captivated by the aesthetic excellence and architectural marvel of the Taj Mahal and Fateh Pur Sikri.

The tour at Agra was conducted in air-conditioned coaches which were arranged by Ashok Travel and Tours (ATT), a wing of India Tourism Development Corporation. The coach numbers were allotted to the delegates and the accompanying staff at Delhi itself. At Agra Railway Station, they had no difficulty in getting into the allotted coaches, with the help of ATT officials and our liaison officers. Cold drinks/mineral water, fresh fruits and freshners etc. were provided to the delegates in the coaches. Each coach had one liaison officer from the Secretariat, one local security officer and one guide. The Guides conversant with French, German, Spanish and English conducted the delegates at Agra. The whole programme went off very nicely and was appreciated by the delegates.

Liaison facilities to Delegates

Delegates were divided into different groups on the basis of languages and hotels where they stayed and liaison officers were provided in various hotels as well as with different delegations. Senior officers from the Ministry of External Affairs as well as foreign-language speaking officers of the Secretariat and professionals were associated for liaison duties.

The Liaison Officers were apprised in advance of the minute details of all the activities during the Conference and also made to familiarise themselves with the bio-data of their delegates so that they could identify them and attend to them properly. They coordinated the calls on dignitaries and meetings with professional bodies as per information already available with them and further requests received from the delegates.

The Liaison Officers assigned to each delegation remained with them throughout the Conference and assisted them in providing any information, advice or help. They were, infact, always available to offer their services.

Simultaneous Interpretation facilities

The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union provided simultaneous interpretation from and into English, French, Spanish and Arabic at the plenary sittings of the Conference and at the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and the Committees.

Three other simultaneous interpretation channels were reserved for Chinese, Japanese and Russians.

For the inaugural function held in the Central Hall, simultaneous interpretation facilities with booths were already available. However, arrangements were made for providing eight channels in the Convention Hall, Hotel Ashok where the plenary sittings were held and in the Banquet Hall, the venue for meetings of the Council and the Committees, where these facilities did not exist earlier. Provision for speaking in Hindi for members of India Group was also made. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) arranged the work of providing SI system, microphones and booths in the Convention Hall, Banquet Hall and meeting rooms of Hotel Ashok. Headphones were made available to participants.

Daily Bulletins

Yet another highlight of the Conference was the illustrated *Daily Bulletin* brought out during the Conference. The first issue of the *Daily Bulletin* commenced on 11 April, 1993 on the eve of the Conference. Copies of the *Daily Bulletin* were delivered to the Delegates in their Hotel rooms every morning. It was indeed a rewarding experience to keep the delegates informed about the highlights of the debates and discussions held, the engagements for the day, Receptions/Dinners, etc. to be hosted in their honour, cultural programmes, programmes for the spouses, varied facilities available for them in the Conference venue, weather conditions and post-conference tours etc.

The Bulletin also carried brief write-ups about the important monuments in and around Delhi under the title "Know Our Monuments". Delegates whose birthdays fell during this period were delighted to find mention of this in the columns of the Bulletins. Select photographs included in the Bulletins added to their informative and aesthetic value. Interesting sidelights regarding lighter moments at the otherwise hectic Conference schedule was another special feature of the Bulletin.

As many as 8 *Daily Bulletins* were issued during the Conference. The Delegates were pleasantly surprised when they received copies of the last issue of the Bulletin early in the morning on 18 April, 1993 aboard the special 'Shatabdi' train which took them to Agra.

CCTV System

A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System was installed at Hotel Ashok, the venue of the 89th IPU Conference, to display through colour monitors all relevant information pertaining to the Conference for the benefit of the delegates, accompanying persons, spouses and others associated with the 89th IPU Conference.

A CCTV Control Centre was set up in order to control and monitor the functioning of the CCTV System installed for the Conference. Colour television sets were installed at 15 vantage points.

The information on display, *inter alia* included, the date, time and venue of the various meetings, Cultural Programmes, Banquets and other functions. Besides, various programmes/functions being held in different rooms of Hotel Ashok, information regarding Spouses Programme and meetings held at other places (*e.g.* ASGP meetings, inaugural function) were displayed through the CCTV System. Necessary arrangements were made to display the names of the delegates who had the floor, their country as also the names of the Chairmen of the various Plenary Sessions.

The delegates, media persons and others watched the displays with great interest and collected the information through CCTV monitors installed at various points.

Arrangements were also made to receive the live telecast of the inaugural function of the Conference at various points in the precincts of Parliament House. This was accomplished by a large screen T.V. System installed specially for the purpose in Parliament Library (Ground Floor) and a few television sets installed near the Coffee and Tea counters located adjacent to the Central Hall. The Members of Parliament and other invitees who could not be accommodated in the Central Hall, were thus enabled to watch the proceedings live.

Media Coverage

To ensure proper coverage in the media of the deliberations and other events/activities pertaining to the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary-General, Lok Sabha as early as on 17 March, 1993. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Doordarshan, All India Radio, Photo Division, Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) and Films Division. At the outset, Secretary-General briefed them about the importance of the Conference, the subjects to be discussed and general arrangements being made for the same. He desired that the inauguration of the Conference, Women Parliamentarians Meet and the Closing Ceremony be telecast/broadcast live by Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR). He pointed out that except for the meetings of Executive Committee and Human Rights Committees, all the proceedings of the Conference would be open to Press. The Secretary-General emphasised that the photographs prepared during the Conference should be of very high quality.

It was agreed at the meeting that in order to give due publicity to the Conference, a Media Centre be set up at Hotel Ashok, the venue of the Conference, which may look after the needs and requirements of the mediamen besides working as a coordinating agency. At the meeting, DAVP offered to set up banners welcoming the delegates to the Conference at the Airport, Parliament House etc., while the Films Division agreed to cover the entire Conference and release a film on it. Doordarshan agreed to cover the arrival of delegates at the Airport. It was also decided at the meeting that proper arrangements be made for media personnel (both electronic and print media) who were to be deputed to cover the Conference.

Media Centre

The Media Centre at Hotel Ashok was set up for an extensive coverage of the Conference. All the necessary facilities, *viz.* accommodation, telephone, fax, photostat and transport were provided to Doordarshan, AIR, Photo Division, PIB, Films Division etc. by the Media Centre. Arrangements were also made for snacks/ lunches/dinners to media personnel who were assigned to cover the Conference. They were also provided with the reference material, background notes, Agenda on each day of the Conference from the Media Centre. Special seating arrangements with interpretation facilities were also made at the venue of the Conference for wider coverage. Invitation letters were sent to all the accredited correspondents to Parliament and cameramen accredited to Press Information Bureau to attend the Conference.

The Media Centre also set up a Press and Public Relations Counter near the Reception Counter of Hotel Ashok. Passes for media personnel to attend the Conference were issued from this Counter. 492 passes were issued to the correspondents as well as cameramen to cover the Conference. Out of these, while 253 passes were issued to media personnel of Government of India, 239 were issued to correspondents of newspapers and news agencies. Car park labels were also issued to journalists. The correspondents were also given first hand information and background material from this Counter.

Arrangements with IPU Secretariat

The Media Centre rendered all the assistance to the Information Officer of the IPU regularly about the programmes of the Conference and also provided the feedback about media coverage, particularly in the print media for incorporation in their regular publication, "IPU in the Press". Assistance was also provided in arranging Press briefings daily about the proceedings of the Conference and its various Committees and in supplying all relevant documents of the proceedings of the Conference to the media personnel, especially the representatives of local and regional newspapers.

Press Conference by Hon'ble Speaker

Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil held two Press Conferences, one on the eve of the 89th IPU Conference and another immediately after the Conference was concluded. In the first Press Conference held

on 8 April 1993, Hon'ble Speaker briefed newsmen about the IPU and the present IPU Conference. He informed them that the 57th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was earlier held in New Delhi in 1969 and this was the second time that India was hosting the Conference at New Delhi. He apprised the Press people that about 1,000 delegates from more than 100 countries would attend the Conference. He also briefed them about the items of the agenda to be discussed at the Conference. As Inter-Parliamentary Union has 118 countries of the world as its members, he termed the Inter-Parliamentary Conference as the Parliament of the Parliaments. In Inter-Parliamentary Conference, international issues and issues of concern to the entire world are discussed and this is next to the United Nations, he said. He also invited them to attend the Conference and make it a grand success.

On 17 April, 1993, after the conclusion of Conference, Shri Patil addressed a joint Press Conference of Inter-Parliamentary Council with President, Sir Michael Marshall and Secretary-General of IPU, Mr. Pierre Cornillon, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri C.K. Jain and Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Sudarshan Aggarwal and noted the achievements of the Conference and importance of the three resolutions passed by it. Later, Shri Patil invited the correspondents for a get-together. The Media Centre arranged both the Press Conferences held by the Hon'ble Speaker. The relevant literature relating to IPU in general and the Conference in particular *viz.* Brochure on IPU, List of Delegates attending Conference, resolutions passed and the concluding address of H.S. etc. were distributed to the Press Correspondents.

Curtain Raisers on Doordarshan

A panel discussion featuring Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, President of IPC and Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha was telecast at the national network by Doordarshan on 10 April, 1993. Shri S. Viswam of *Deccan Chronicle* was the moderator. The importance of the Conference and its impact on international arena were the highlights of the discussion. A Curtain Raiser featuring Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the IPU was telecast by Doordarshan earlier on 8 April, 1993. Shri A. Surya Prakash of *Indian Express* was the moderator. The aims and objectives of the Conference were discussed in the programme.

Live Telecast/Broadcast

Inauguration of the Conference : The Inaugural function of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference by the President of India on 12 April, 1993 in the Central Hall of Parliament House was telecast/broadcast live.

Women Parliamentarians Meet : The Women Parliamentarians Meet, inaugurated by the Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan in the Banquet Hall of Hotel Ashok earlier on 11 April, 1993 was also telecast/broadcast live.

Interviews of Delegates : Arrangements were made by both the electronic and print media for taking the interviews of the President of IPC, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Secretary-General, Lok Sabha besides the delegates at the Conference venue. The Doordarshan took interviews of the Delegates from Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and United Kingdom at Hotel Ashok. The All India Radio took interviews of the Delegates from Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Britain, Canada, France, Iran, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Turkey, Vietnam and Zimbabwe during the course of the Conference. Arrangements were also made for the coverage of delegates' calls on Hon'ble Speaker.

Press Releases and Press Briefings : Press Releases brought out by the host Secretariat as well as IPU Secretariat were issued to about 300 media personnel every day throughout the Conference. Daily Bulletins were also distributed to the Press. Besides the resolutions adopted by the Conference, other relevant material including speeches delivered by the speakers were also issued to the Press every day. Daily Press briefings were also arranged during the Conference in consultation with the IPU Secretariat and Director, Press

Information Bureau (PIB). It was ensured that sufficient number of mediamen, both of the Indian and international Press were present at the Press briefings called by the IPU Secretariat daily.

Concluding Ceremony of the Conference : The Concluding Ceremony on 17 April, 1993, was also telecast and broadcast live by the electronic media.

Photographs

The Photo Division released photographs taken at various events daily during the Conference. Arrangements were made for distribution of these photographs to media personnel. Arrangements were also made for the exhibition of the photographs in Hotel Ashok.

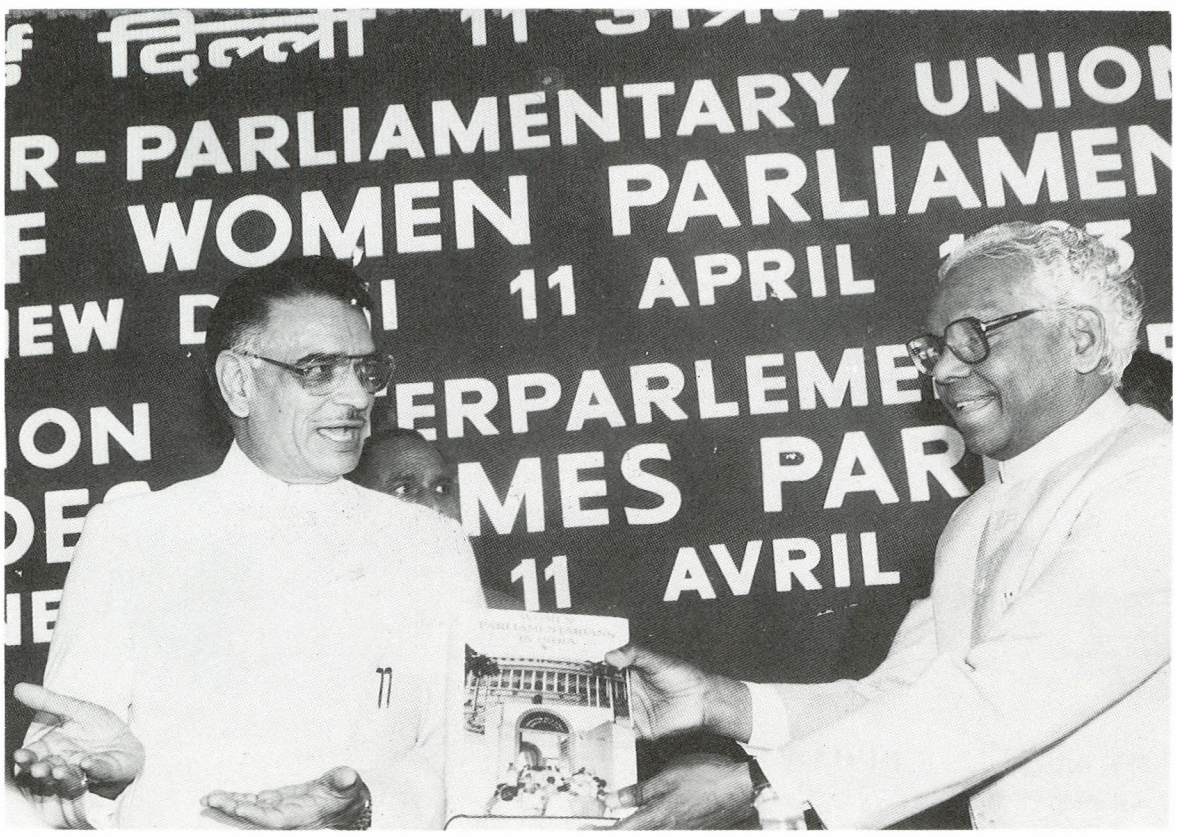
Video Recording of the Conference

The video-recordings of the Inaugural Ceremony, Women Parliamentarians Meet, Proceedings of the Conference, Curtain Raisers, Interviews of Delegates and other events, were done by Doordarshan. Copies of VHS cassettes were made out after receipt of Master Copies from Doordarshan for presentation to dignitaries.

Press Clippings

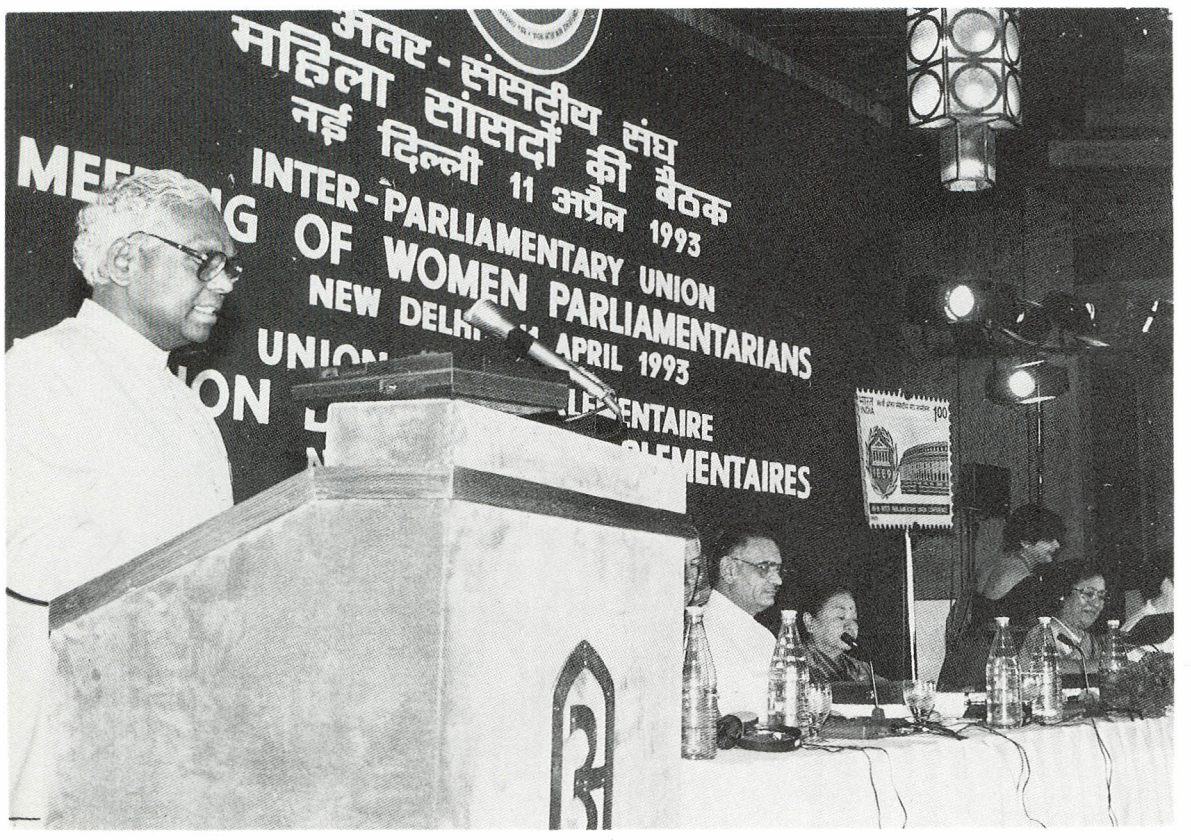
All the Indian newspapers (in English and Hindi) and foreign newspapers received in Parliament Library were scanned and Press Clippings relating to 89th IPU Conference collected. While a set of the same has been preserved for record, another was passed on to the IPU Secretariat for their use in bringing out a publication, "IPU in the Press".

Shri K.R. Narayanan, Vice-President of India; Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha; Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha; Sir Michael Marshall, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and other delegates on their arrival for the inauguration of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.



Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan releasing the book, "Women Parliamentarians in India" to mark the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Shri K.R. Narayanan, Vice-President of India, and Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha, presenting the book, 'Women Parliamentarians in India' to Sir Michael Marshall soon after its release on the occasion of inauguration of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians attending the Conference.



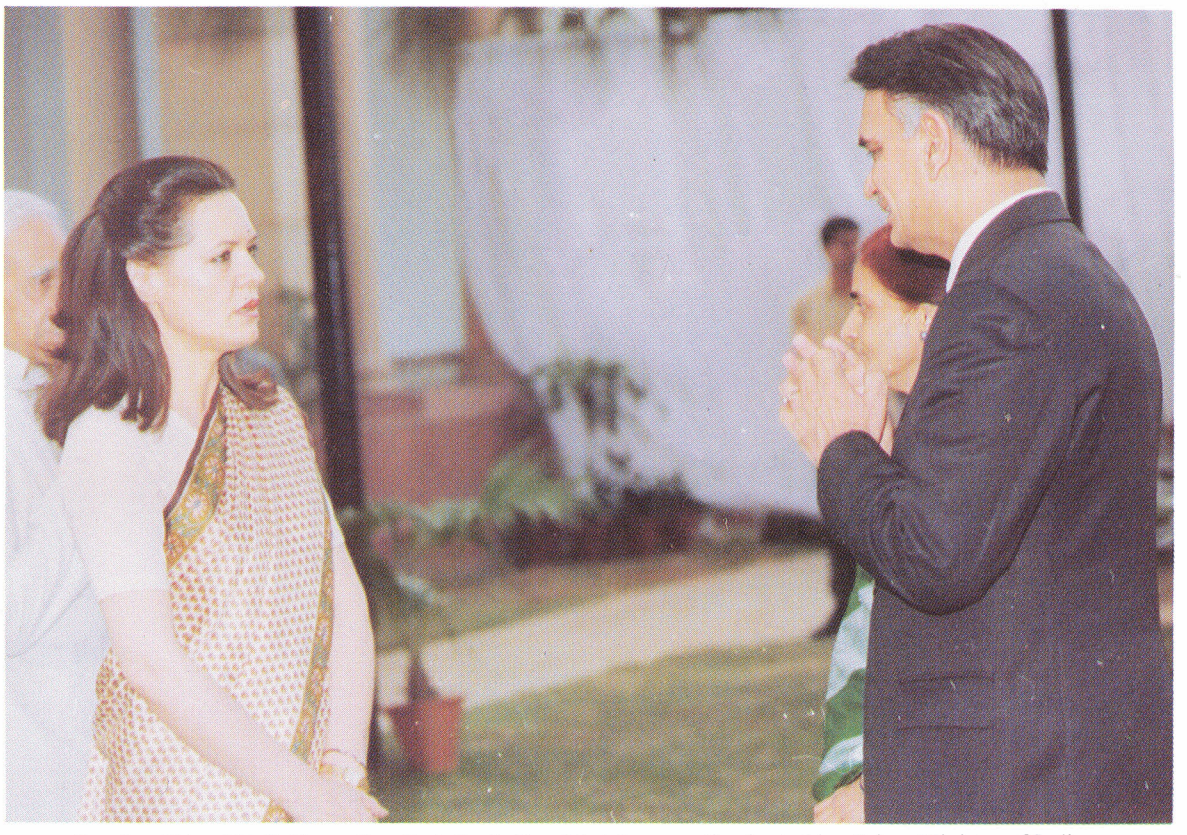
Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan delivering the inaugural address at the Meeting of the Women Parliamentarians.

Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan releasing a commemorative postage stamp to mark the occasion of the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan releasing the commemorative coins.

Delegates with the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. Also seen in the picture are Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao; Vice-President, Shri K.R. Narayanan; Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; President Inter-Parliamentary Council, Sir Michael Marshall; Minister of Water Resources, Shri V.C. Shukla.

Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao receiving the delegates at the reception hosted by him.



Speaker Shivraj V. Patil greeting Smt. Sonia Gandhi at the reception hosted by Prime Minister of India.

Sarod Maestro, Amjad Ali Khan delighting delegates with the Sitar at the Banquet hosted by Hon. Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

Dance Performance by Sonal Man Singh at the Banquet hosted by the Vice-President, Shri K.R. Narayanan.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Sir Michael Marshall, President of the IPC watching a cultural programme along with other Delegates.

Spouses at the Bahai (Lotus) Temple.

Spouses at the Ahimsa Sthal.

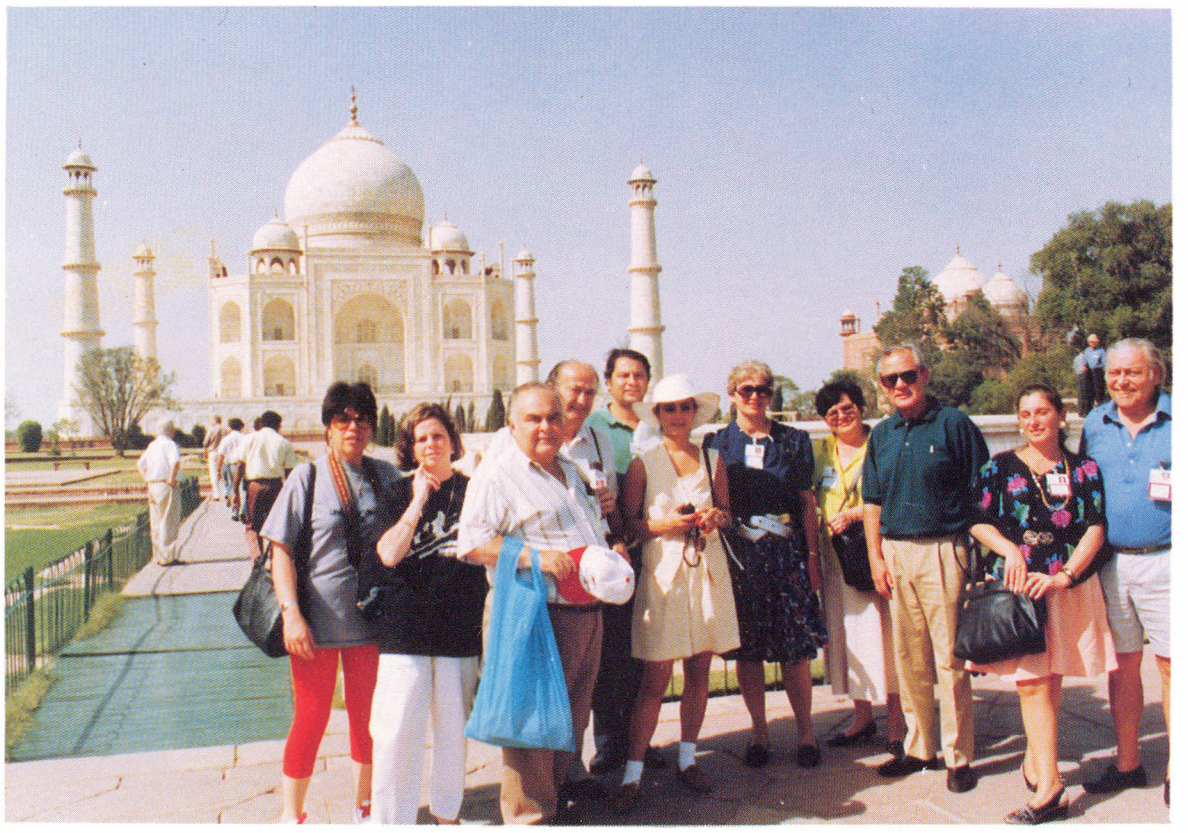
Spouses outside the Qutab Minar.

A view of Rajasthani Dance at Suraj Kund.

Spouses with artistes at Suraj Kund, Haryana.

Mehndi being put on a spouse's palm.

Spouses at the Jantar Mantar.



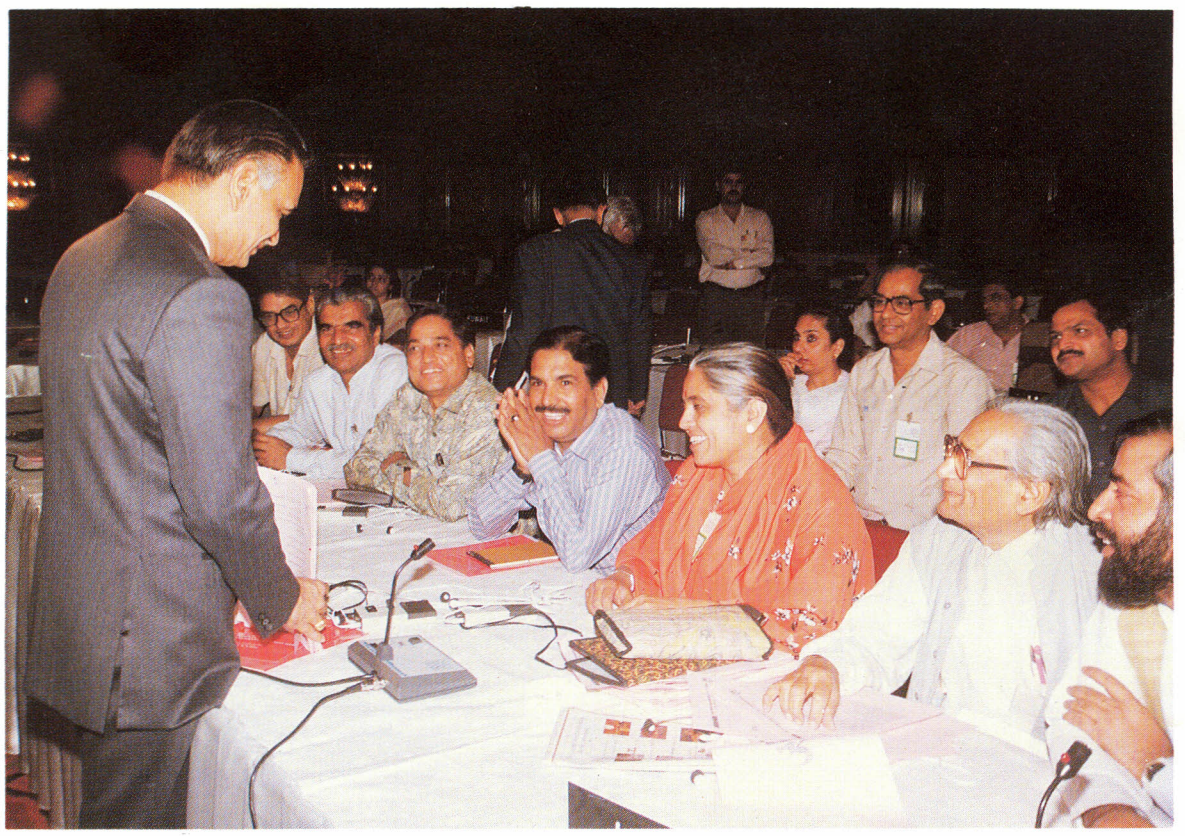
Delegates at the Taj Mahal.

Delegates inside the Taj Mahal.

Delegates at Fatehpur Sikri, Agra.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on 17 April, 1993 on the conclusion of the 89th IPU Conference. Also seen in the picture on his right is Sir Michael Marshall, President IPU Council.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of 89th IPU Conference having an informal chat with the Press correspondents at the conclusion of the 89th IPU Conference in New Delhi on 17 April, 1993.



Another view of Shri Shivraj V. Patil's meeting with the Press in New Delhi on 17 April, 1993 at the end of the 89th IPU Conference.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of 89th IPU Conference having discussion with Press Correspondents after the Press Conference.

CHAPTER XII

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

In conformity with the decision taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 151st Session on 7 September, 1992, an agreement was entered into between the Group of India and the Inter-Parliamentary Union concerning the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference and other related meetings in New Delhi from 12 to 17 April, 1993, at the invitation of the Group of India. Accordingly, sharing of responsibilities between the host group and the IPU Secretariat for the Conference was finalised. The Host Secretariat made arrangements for the various services for the delegates as per details in the succeeding paragraphs:

Reception at Airport

An information circular was issued requesting the delegates to furnish details regarding passport, visa, etc. and their arrival and departure dates. Indian Missions in various countries were also requested to get in touch with the concerned Parliaments and furnish the requisite information.

On receipt of this information, different concerned authorities were intimated about the dates of the Conference and requested to make necessary arrangements for expeditious clearance of the delegates.

On arrival, the delegates were received by our officers at the bay itself. These officers were carrying placards welcoming the delegates for the Conference to facilitate identification by the delegates. The delegates were garlanded and taken to the Ceremonial Lounge where tea and refreshments were served and photographs taken. Simultaneously, some officers collected their passports, luggage tag etc. and got the formalities completed at the special counter and collected their luggage. The luggage was carried in the coaches and brought to the Ceremonial Lounge where the delegates boarded these coaches and were taken to their respective hotels.

The refreshment and transportation arrangements for the delegates were made round-the-clock. As soon as the delegates left the airport, the Liaison Officers in the hotel were informed on hotline in the case of Hotel Ashok and direct lines in the case of other hotels about the arrival of these delegates so that they were in readiness to receive the delegates.

Information about the dates and time of departure of delegates were collected from them and similar arrangements were made at the time of their departure after the conclusion of the Conference.

In case of delegates arriving or departing from airports other than Delhi, the concerned Protocol Departments of the State Governments as well as Secretaries of the concerned State Legislatures were informed about the arrivals/departures of the delegates and requested to receive them and assist them in their expeditious clearance at the airport.

Reception at Hotels

Special teams of officers were deputed at different hotels to receive the delegates. On receipt of information from the airport regarding the arrival of delegates, these officers immediately intimated the reception desk of the concerned hotel and completed necessary formalities.

On arrival at the respective hotels, delegates were received and garlanded by our team of officers as well as the hotel authorities. Thereafter, they were conducted to their respective rooms. The team of officers ensured that the items of luggage of these delegates were collected and despatched to their respective rooms.

At the time of departure, arrangements were made to collect the luggage of these delegates from their respective rooms and transport the same to the airport well in advance, and all the formalities completed so that the delegates were not required to wait for the same.

Registration of Delegates

The Host Secretariat opened a Registration Counter for registering the names of delegates on arrival and providing identity badges, folders containing invitations for official receptions, List of Delegates, etc. The counter operated in Hotel Ashok from 9 to 17 April, 1993.

Registration counters were also opened for registration of speakers for the Plenary sittings and Inter-Parliamentary Council Meetings, Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and Meetings of ASGP. These counters operated from 12 to 17 April, 1993.

Information Desk

In order to meet the information needs of the delegates, observers, spouses of the delegates and accompanying persons, an Information Desk was set up. Situated in the Lobby of the main entrance of Hotel Ashok the Information Desk acted as the nerve-centre of the IPU Conference. It functioned round-the-clock to assist the delegates. The officers at the Desk attended to the delegates' queries regarding the Conference's agenda, various Committees' agenda and any other information pertaining to various counters of the Conference set up by the Secretariat. The Information Desk also supplied information regarding arrivals/ departures of the delegates, their stay in various hotels, daily programme for the spouses of the delegates, etc.

Apart from English and Hindi, the information was provided to the delegates in French, German and Spanish also, by the professionals especially engaged for this purpose at the Desk.

The Information Bulletin, covering varied activities of the Conference, was also supplied through the Desk. With a view to providing the latest information to the delegates, a computer terminal, a fax machine and a hotline to the Indira Gandhi International Airport was provided at the Desk. The Information Desk was a vital link between the delegates and the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well as various other agencies.

Computerised Information and Retrieval System

During the Conference, a Computer Centre was set up in the lobby of the Hotel Ashok adjacent to the Information Desk. Three terminals and one printer were connected to the main Computer. The Computer Centre was connected with terminals at the IGI Airport, Parliament House and NIC Headquarters through telephone lines and modems.

Data regarding delegates and accompanying persons, *viz.* composition of delegations, their arrival and departure schedules, bio-data of delegates, names of hotels of their stay, passport details, addresses, etc. were fed into the Computer.

The Computer Centre at Hotel Ashok as well as the IGI Airport remained open round-the-clock from 8 to 20 April, 1993 and information regarding arrival of delegates was fed at the airport itself as soon as delegates arrived there. Information regarding hotel accommodation, room numbers, etc. was gathered from various hotels, IPU Registration Counter and even from the delegates directly and fed into the Computer immediately.

Retrieval of information by following parameters was made available:

1. Information on delegates/groups
2. Information on delegates arranged, country-wise
3. Information on delegates stay, hotel-wise
4. Hotel information, country-wise
5. List of spouses staying in various hotels
6. Arrival/Departure information, date-wise
7. Arrival/Departure information, individual/group-wise
8. Arrival/Departure schedule, country-wise
9. Departure schedule, hotel-wise
10. Over-all statistics regarding arrivals/departures.

A separate database was created for feeding the bio-data of the delegates. Information regarding names of the delegates, date of birth, marital status, present post held, education, career, special interests, awards won, publications brought out, etc. was also fed into the Computer. The parameters available for retrieval of this information were as follows:

1. Name-wise
2. Date of birth-wise
3. Profession-wise
4. Designation-wise

As per information received earlier from participating countries, around 575 delegates were expected to attend the Conference. Apart from this, about 275 Secretaries/Advisors, 172 spouses and accompanying persons and 116 IPU staff members were also expected. The percentage of participants who had finally arrived was about 92 per cent with 531 delegates, 243 Secretaries/Advisors, 157 spouses and accompanying persons and 111 IPU staff members.

A large number of queries were frequently received from the delegates, officers and agencies connected with the organisation of the Conference, besides the Press and other media personnel, and attended to at the Computer Centre.

The computerised information retrieval system was thus quite helpful in meeting the needs of the delegates as well as various personnel deputed for organising the Conference activities effectively.

Hotel Accommodation for the Delegates

The Indian Parliamentary Group had sent an Information Circular well in advance to various National Groups of the Parliamentary Union wherein they were requested to indicate their first, second and third preferences of hotels and the types of accommodation which may be got booked for them. The names of hotels, their tariffs and distance from the Conference venue were given in the Circular.

On the basis of the preferences indicated by the delegates, bookings were made in the following hotels:

1. Hotel Ashok
2. Hotel Samrat

3. Hotel Kanishka

4. Hotel Le Meridien

5. Hotel Taj Palace

6. Hotel Maurya Sheraton

A number of meetings were held with the representatives of the hotels to discuss the various arrangements to be made by them in connection with the Conference, especially the following:

1. Reception to be given to the delegates on arrival at the hotels;

2. Transportation arrangements from and to airport;

3. Provision of transport to delegates from hotel to venue of the Conference and back;

4. The procedure for reservation of rooms;

5. Arrangement by hotels for local sight-seeing and outstation tours and the cost thereof;

6. Security arrangements made by the hotels for the delegates;

7. Banking, Post Office and medical facilities available in the hotels;

8. Mode of inter-action by the hotel staff with the delegates not knowing English;

9. Facilities to be provided by the hotels for displaying the Conference programme in advance;

10. Provision of complimentary rooms for Lok Sabha Secretariat staff and security people and space for setting up counters in the Lobby; and

11. Mode of resolving the problems of the delegates.

The hotel representatives were also briefed about IPU Conference and its importance. It was impressed upon them that they were expected to provide the best of service and hospitality to the delegates.

The Secretariat made room reservations for about 1,000 delegates/IPU Secretariat staff on the basis of their options in the six hotels mentioned above. However, a few delegates opted for stay in the following hotels:

1. Hotel Hyatt Regency

2. Hotel Janpath

3. Hotel Ambassador

The members of the IPU staff were accommodated in Hotel Samrat adjacent to the venue of the Conference, *viz.* Hotel Ashok. Apart from being the venue of the Conference Hotel Ashok provided rooms for the 'Media Centre' and 'Medical Facilities' to the delegates.

Hon. Speaker personally visited Hotel Ashok several times to ensure foolproof arrangements.

Reference Desk

A Reference desk was set up in the Lobby of the Convention Hall of Hotel Ashok, New Delhi (the venue of the Plenary Sessions of the Conference), with the objective of the catering to the general reference and information needs of the delegates, particularly pertaining to agenda items. The Reference Desk operated from

0800 hrs. to 2000 hrs. from 9 to 17 April, 1993. Delegates were informed of the facilities provided by the Desk through daily Bulletins.

Books on Constitution and Parliament of India and other countries, Disarmament, Terrorism, Human Rights, Drug Menace, World Economy including North-South Dialogue, Women and Child Development, Education and other contemporary issues engaging the attention of the world community were displayed at the Reference Desk. Efforts were made to keep ready standard reference books like encyclopaedias, year-books etc. besides books of renowned authors/institutions for reference at the Desk.

One of the key features of the Reference Desk was the display of latest Lok Sabha Secretariat Publications (including those released during the Conference) which aroused the interest of the delegates and other participants. Moreover, the selected Indian and foreign newspapers and magazines were kept ready for meeting the demands of the delegates.

The Reference Desk distributed a few booklets covering various facets of the political, social and economic situation in India *vis-a-vis* member countries of the IPU. These booklets included *Parliamentary System of India, India and IPU*, and *India: Some Facts*. Copies of the daily Bulletins were also kept at the Desk for meeting the requirements of the delegates. Folders containing details of agenda items, list of speakers, summary record of the proceedings, text of important speeches, etc., were made available for the perusal of the delegates. Arrangements were also made to obtain Press coverage of the proceedings and other functions regularly in the morning for reference by the delegates. Sufficient number of copies of the Press coverage containing interviews/statements of the delegates were made available for supply to the interested delegates.

A novel feature of the existing arrangements was making available to the delegates news reports from various countries about the latest developments in their respective countries. With a view to inform the delegates about the happenings in their countries, arrangements were made to obtain important news items from Indian Missions abroad through Ministry of External Affairs. These news reports were received at the desk through fax/telex messages. Country-wise folders were prepared and updated daily for the perusal of the delegates, who were very keen to go through them frequently.

The Reference Desk played a key role in catering to the information needs of the delegates. All those who visited the Desk made full use of the books relevant to the agenda items, latest publications and other information material at one place. There was a recurring demand for the booklets which were distributed from the Reference Desk, as these were not only handy for them but also provided valuable information about India. Delegates also evinced keen interest in 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament' by Kaul and Shakdher, Indian Constitution and books on Indian classical dances.

On the whole, efforts were made to supply all relevant details as quickly as possible. For this, the Reference Desk remained in constant touch with the concerned Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the IPU. Secretariat which were quite helpful throughout the Conference.

Transport Facilities

The Host Secretariat made transport arrangements for arrival and departure of the delegates as well as for taking them to the venue of the meetings of the Conference from their respective hotels and back.

The transport requirements were worked out well in advance on day-to-day basis with arrangements of requisite number of vehicles made available by ITDC. The vehicles were accordingly deployed at the airport for transportation of the delegates from airport to respective hotels. All the coaches deployed for the Conference were inspected in advance and deficiencies rectified. As per decision of the Organising Committee air-conditioned coaches were made available to the participating delegates for their official programmes only.

Since the venue of the Conference was Hotel Ashok and most of the delegates were staying at Hotel Ashok and Samrat, a round-the-clock Transport Counter was set up at Hotel Ashok. This counter started functioning five days before the Conference and was in operation till all the delegates had left after the Conference. Besides this, two other Transport Counters were also opened at Indira Gandhi International Airport and Parliament House Annexe, keeping in view the arrivals and departures of a large number of delegates at the airport and to meet the transport requirements of the staff of host Secretariat who were detailed for Conference duty. In addition, air-conditioned coaches were deployed at other hotels, *viz.* Taj Palace, Maurya Sheraton, Hyatt Regency, Kanishka and Le Meridien for taking the delegates, who stayed in these hotels, to the venue of the Conference and back.

Besides these arrangements, a shuttle service also operated between Hotel Ashok and other Hotels. Time schedule of this service was published in the daily bulletins of the Conference. Six air-conditioned coaches were provided exclusively for the spouses programme. Air-conditioned coaches were also provided to the delegates and their spouses for social functions including reception by the top dignitaries of the nation. Specific transport arrangements were also made for President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Secretary-General of IPU, Members of Reception Committee, Indian delegates to the Conference, IPU Secretariat staff, Security staff, Medical facilities, Printing Section, Catering arrangements, Media Centre, Liaison Officers and other Officers engaged in the Conference work. Besides above, transport arrangements were made for delegates in connection with their post-conference tour.

Catering Facilities

The Host Secretariat organised formal lunches and dinners hosted by the Indian dignitaries for delegates to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference and other invitees for the 89th IPU Conference. These lunches/dinners were arranged at Hotel Ashok. Elaborate arrangements were made in this regard including preparation of list of invitees, printing and despatch of invitation cards, finalisation of menus and seating plans etc. in consultation with the hotel authorities and the hosts.

Arrangements were also made to provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and tea to the members of staff of the Host Secretariat on Conference duty at IGI Airport and all the hotels. Provision was also made for lunch and dinner to staff on Conference duty at the Railway Canteen in Parliament House Annexe during the Conference.

Medical Facilities

A comprehensive contingency plan was formulated in consultation with the concerned authorities to provide medical care to the delegates attending the 89th IPU Conference. It was envisaged to provide immediate medical care by the medical team on the spot, intermediate medical care by the mobile unit during transit to the hospital and finitive medical care in the hospital. Two-three rooms in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (Dr. RML Hospital) were kept in readiness for meeting emergency requirements of the delegates for hospitalisation. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were also requested to keep two rooms in readiness as a stand-by arrangement.

Airport Health Organisation and Dr. RML Hospital provided medical attention at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi during the arrivals and departures of delegates. Additional medical support such as equipments, ambulances, medical and para medical staff were provided by Dr. RML Hospital to the Airport Health Organisation. For delegates arriving at the Sahar Airport, Bombay, medical facilities were provided by the Medical Unit of the International Airport Authority of India (IAAI) located at Bombay. Arrangements were also made with the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Maharashtra to help IAAI in mobilising additional requirements.

A round-the-clock Static Medical Centre was established at Hotel Ashok with four-five beds alongwith specialist facilities provided by Safdarjung Hospital. Two fully-equipped ambulances were also stationed at

Hotel Ashok by Safdarjung Hospital for transferring the sick patients, if needed. The Medical Centre functioned during 8-20 April, 1993. For delegates staying at other hotels, arrangements were made to provide on-the-spot medical care by doctors of the respective hotels. In case of the guest needing hospitalisation, the responsibility for transferring the sick was assigned to the medical staff stationed at Hotel Ashok.

A fully-equipped mobilised ambulance, drawn from the two stationed at Hotel Ashok, with medical/para-medical staff from Safdarjung Hospital invariably followed the delegates attending the inaugural ceremony in Parliament House, during their meetings with the President, Prime Minister and participation in various cultural programmes.

A Medical Officer with para-medical staff accompanied the spouses during their visit to Suraj Kund. Two Medical Officers with other para-medical staff followed the delegates during their visit to Agra. In addition, the Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were also urged upon to keep requisite medical arrangements in readiness during the visits of spouses to Suraj Kund and the delegates to Agra, respectively.

The Hotel Ashok was also connected through hotlines with Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and the Director-General of Health Services (DGHS). Dr. RML Hospital was also connected with the IGIA for any emergency requirement.

Medical attention was provided by the Medical Centre at Hotel Ashok to 85 persons (delegates, spouses and others who accompanied the delegates) for various minor ailments during the period of the Conference.

Telecommunication and Postal Facilities

Telecommunication and postal facilities formed an essential part of the infrastructural facilities that were provided to the delegates attending the 89th IPU Conference. As regards the telecommunication services the facilities included a Telecom Bureau, provision of non-exchange hotlines and direct telephone lines.

The Telecom Bureau was set up to cater to the Media Centre and extended telex, fax and radio photo facilities. The Bureau also provided STD/ISD facilities on payment basis besides making available public call offices. Non-exchange hotlines were installed connecting the airport with the Conference venue to facilitate immediate transmission of information relating to arrivals/departures of delegates and with the security control rooms in Hotel Ashok and other hotels where delegates were residing. Besides these hotlines, a network of 50 direct telephone lines was provided in the office of the IPU Secretariat, Lok Sabha Secretariat and the various special counters that had been opened for the convenience of the delegates.

A postal counter was also opened at the Conference venue which provided basic postal facilities including speed post and registration. A philatelic counter set up during the Conference displayed a wide range of stamp collection.

Banking Facilities at Hotels

With a view to providing quick and efficient service to the visitors, the Central Bank of India opened a special round-the-clock foreign exchange counter in Hotel Ashok and augmented the existing counter. The Central Bank also provided services at Hotel Taj Palace Inter-Continental. Similarly, Punjab National Bank also provided their services in Hotels Kanishka and Le Meridien. The State Bank of India also established, in coordination with other Banks, extension counters at various hotels during the Conference period.

Delegates availed of the facility to exchange their currencies in all foreign exchange offices in the banks located in the hotels of their stay and at the Central Bank of India in Hotel Ashok.

Travel and Tourist Information Counter

The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation had prepared different programmes of tours in India and sent relevant literature in advance to our Missions abroad so that the same could be circulated to the delegates.

The counter of M/s. Ashok Travel & Tours in the Lobby of Hotel Ashok attended to the delegates on priority basis. For all their unofficial tours, the delegates contacted this counter for undertaking any tour inside the country.

Photographic Service

A photographic service was provided to cover all events throughout the Conference. An official photographer appointed to cover various events of the Conference, took photographs of plenary sittings, Women Parliamentarians' Meet, ASGP Meetings etc., arrivals and departures of delegates, social functions and official receptions. The official photographer set up his counter near reception in the Lobby of Hotel Ashok where the photographs taken on various occasions during the Conference were displayed in order that delegates could select and purchase the photographs of their choice.

Typing Pool, Photocopying and Printing Facilities

A typing pool was set up for the use of the delegates at the Business Centre near Convention Hall in Hotel Ashok during the Conference. The Host Secretariat provided manual as well as electronic typewriters both in English and French. Arrangements were also made for the facility of photocopying. Photocopying machines and duplicating papers of a special size were made available to the IPU Secretariat. Besides, all furniture and stationery items were also arranged by the Host Group for delegates at the Conference premises.

With a view to accomplishing the task of printing work in connection with the Conference, elaborate plans were formulated. An expert team was also formed for overseeing the entire printing operation. The sizeable printing work was executed by some reputed private printers, Government of India Press and Rotaprint Section of the Host Secretariat. Various jobs like Information Circular, Letterheads, Invitation Cards, daily Bulletins and Inaugural Ceremony Folder, speeches of various dignitaries etc. were printed for circulation to all the participating delegates. Some publications relating to this Conference were got printed in French version as well.

Precis of the Conference Proceedings

As per past practice the proceedings of the Conference were not covered verbatim. However, the precis-writers of the IPU Secretariat covered the proceedings of the Conference. Synopses of the proceedings of the meetings of Plenary Sittings, Inter-Parliamentary Council, Women Parliamentarians' Meet and ASGP were prepared and distributed to the delegates during the period of Conference by the IPU Secretariat.

Synopses of Conference Proceedings in Hindi

Synopsis work pertaining to various meetings of the Conference was taken care of by the IPU Secretariat. However, in order to meet the demand of the Indian legislators and the Press, Hindi Synopses of the proceedings of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Plenary Sittings was undertaken by Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Mail for Delegates

Arrangements were made for the delegates to have their mail sent to them during the period of the Conference. The messages and communications received during Conference were placed in the special pigeon holes set up near Registration and Information Desks in Hotel Ashok to make these easily available to the delegates.

Distribution of Documents

A Documentation Service started one week before the Conference operated near Convention Hall in Hotel Ashok where the staff from Host Secretariat worked in close coordination with the IPU staff for reproduction of documents and their distribution to delegates.

Working documents were distributed to the delegates in the various meeting rooms. The facility of providing additional copies to the delegates was made available by the Documentation Service. Arrangements were also made to distribute the copies of addresses during plenary sittings of the Conference and of Press comments on various topics on the agenda for discussion during the Conference.

Security Arrangements

The preparation for the security arrangements of the Conference started right from October 1992. Various security organisations, namely Delhi Police, Intelligence Bureau, Special Protection Group, National Security Guard, Railway Police and Railway Protection Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force and the security set-up of Parliament played a vital role in the security arrangements, which were made keeping in view the local, national and international environment prevailing at that time.

The security was provided to the delegates, observers and other guests right from their arrival at the airport. A combined Security Control Room with officers from Parliament Security, Airport Security and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security started functioning round-the-clock. Personal security officers were provided to the Leaders of each delegation and also to the delegates for whom it was considered necessary. There was thorough anti-sabotage check of the vehicles in which the delegates travelled. The vehicles of the delegates were also piloted/escorted to their places of residence. Photo Identity Cards were prepared for the delegates, observers, spouses and all those who attended the Conference. The main venue of the Conference, the airport, different hotels where the delegates were staying, Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe were connected by Wireless Communication and also telephone hotlines.

Hotel Ashok, the main venue of the Conference, was kept under an extremely vigilant and strict security umbrella. Anti-sabotage check of the entire building, rooms and precincts was conducted and access control mounted earlier till the conclusion of the Conference. No parking was allowed inside the precincts of the Hotel Ashok except for a very few vehicles with a special car park label. There was strict access control right outside the main approach to the Hotel. The character and antecedents of the employees of all the hotels were verified earlier and special identity badges issued. A large number of Security Personnel (in plain-cloth) were deployed inside the Hotel, while the peripheral security was manned by the uniformed personnel from CRPF and BSF. Similar arrangements were made in other hotels namely, Samrat, Maurya Shereton, Taj Palace, Le Meridian, Kanishka and Hyatt Regency where the delegates were staying. A Control Room with wireless connections were established in all the hotels.

Necessary security arrangements were made for the inaugural function, social functions, receptions, spouses programmes etc.

With regard to post-conference tour to Agra, necessary precautions from security point of view were taken.

Happily, the Conference passed off peacefully without a single untoward incident.

CHAPTER XIII

VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS

The 89th IPU Conference organised in New Delhi was a great success. The delegates from India and abroad, IPU Secretariat personnel, mediamen and others were all praise for the excellent arrangements made and the warmth of affection and hospitality extended to them during the Conference.

In a letter to the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, on 19 April, 1993, *Mr. Pierre Cornillon, the Secretary-General of the IPU* expressed deep gratitude to him for honouring the Inaugural Ceremony by his presence and thanked him for having received all the participants on 12 April, 1993 in the magnificent Mughal Gardens.

Mr. Cornillon also thanked the Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan in another communication on 19 April, 1993 for his presence at the Inaugural Ceremony and his Welcome Address to the parliamentarians as well as for his extremely interesting and stimulating speech at the Women Parliamentarians Meeting on 11 April, 1993.

The IPU Secretary-General thanked the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao on 19 April, 1993 for his personal interest in the Conference and the splendid reception which he gave to the delegates on 15 April at Hyderabad House, New Delhi. He also stated that the Address delivered by the Indian Prime Minister at the Inaugural Ceremony was a source of inspiration for the participants for their subsequent deliberations and work in days that followed.

Immediately after her return to Bonn, *Mrs. Leni Fischer, Leader of the German Delegation* wrote back on 21 April, 1993, thanking the Honourable Speaker Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil and the Members of both the Houses of the Indian Parliament for the warm welcome extended to them. She observed : "We will always remember with great pleasure the days spent in India which have left a deep impression on us because of the generous hospitality we enjoyed in New Delhi." She also expressed her gratitude to the staff members of the Indian Parliament for the efficient organisation and smooth functioning of the Conference.

In his letter of 29 April, 1993 to the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, *Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Leader of the United States Inter-Parliamentary Group* extended his heartiest congratulations on a "superbly successful conference" and thanked him for the many courtesies extended to his delegation during the "highly successful" 89th IPU Conference. "The combined schedule of plenary meetings and social events afforded an excellent and useful opportunity for very meaningful discussions throughout our stay in India. We particularly enjoyed the cultural programme offered several evenings during the Conference. It gave us greater appreciation for the richness of the Indian culture", he added.

In her communication of 24 May, 1993, *Mrs. Haydee Castillo de Lopez, Leader of the delegation from Venezuela*, expressed her heartful thanks for the "great task undertaken for the preparation and organisation of the Conference as well as the friendship shown to the delegates by the Parliament, Government and the Peoples of India."

Leader of the Italian Delegation, Mr. Ronald Riz in his letter of 22 April, 1993 to the Honourable Speaker and the President of the 89th IPU Conference expressed his "deepest thanks" for the warm welcome during their stay in India. He added that during their stay in Delhi they experienced the continued and positive organising effort of the Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group for the successful outcome of the 89th IPU Conference. In his appreciation, Mr. Riz further said, "I do believe that the work carried out by the different bodies of the IPU was particularly useful; sharing the same values we managed, also considering the initiatives of the Italian delegation, to Draft Resolution texts on subjects of the utmost importance for peace in the world".

In his letter of 3 May, 1993 to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, *Leader of the Swiss delegation* to the 89th IPU Conference, *Mr. Rane Rhinew* expressed his warmest thanks and appreciation to the Indian Group, to the Lok Sabha and to the Honourable Speaker for the hospitality accorded to the Swiss delegation as well as for the excellent organisation of the Conference. He further said, "we will have happy memories of your country...we have enjoyed your capital city, its beauties and cultural heritage and also its warm climate...." He also thanked for the organisation of social programmes. He hoped that the links between the Indian Parliament and the Swiss Federal Assembly would develop in the future.

Mr. J. Pede, Leader of the Belgian delegation, on 21 April, 1993, congratulated the Speaker, Lok Sabha on the perfect organisation of the 89th IPU Conference in New Delhi. "It was a highly interesting Conference and three excellent resolutions were adopted", said Mr. Pede. The Belgian delegation during their stay in India had the opportunity to visit part of the country and were greatly impressed by the complexity of Indian society and by the strength emanating from the country, he added.

Thanking the Speaker, Lok Sabha for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded, the *President of the Cape Verdian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Antonio Do Espirito Santo Fonseca* said that they were deeply "honoured to have had the opportunity to participate in such a highly successful Conference in this splendid country of yours."

On 20 April, 1993, *Mr. Pierre Cornillon* expressed, on behalf of all the participants, whole-hearted thanks to Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Indian Group for the manner in which the IPU was received and the Conference organised in New Delhi. In his letter to Shri Patil, he further said, "Many participants with whom I had a chance to speak underlined the great political success of the Conference: this which is also a success for India, is obviously largely due to the efforts of the Indian Group, the Organising Committee of the Conference, the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, and last but not the least, to your personal commitment and so able Chairmanship." The excellent conditions of work for the meetings in the Hotel Ashok and the rich and varied programme of events contributed to making the Conference a truly memorable occasion, observed Mr. Cornillon.

Shri K.T. Vandayar, a member of Lok Sabha in his letter of 21 April 1993 to Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha said that the Government of India should be applauded for hosting the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in a classical Indian style. After watching the Conference, Shri Vandayar felt proud of the efficacy of our Parliament.

In separate letters on 19 April, 1993, Mr. Cornillon thanked Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources and Leader of the Indian Delegation for his personal interest in and support for the proceedings of the meetings; and Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then Minister of Commerce, for his impressive presentation at the plenary session on 15 April which provided the participants an insight into India's leading role in the establishment of democracy and her bold economic reform strategy.

Praising *Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha* for the excellent manner in which the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was organised, the Secretary-General of IPU in his letter dated 19 April, 1993 said that "the smooth and friendly manner in which you chaired the session clearly contributed to its

success and delegates were especially appreciative of the fact that you encouraged an active exchange of views and experience as well as facilitated ways for their concerns to be conveyed to and taken into account by the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference and the Inter-Parliamentary Council."

Addressing a Press Conference on 18 April, 1993, on his return to Beirut after attending the Conference, *Dr. Amin Al-Hafez, the Leader of the Lebanese delegation*, praised the manner in which the 89th IPU Conference was organised. "It was one of the best conferences we had been to. This was in addition to the strong affection that we have always enjoyed from our friends, the Indians, in view of their attachment to Arab issues in general, and the issues which concerns the Third World countries in particular."

Sir Michael Marshall, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council in his letter of 17 April, 1993, on behalf of IPU to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha expressed his warmest thanks for the excellent arrangements which the Secretary-General and his colleagues undertook to make the Conference in New Delhi a most successful and enjoyable one. To quote Sir Michael Marshall "I know that the success of this most complex operation involves a tremendous amount of pre-planning and organisation and the strenuous efforts of an army of collaborators at all levels. That the Conference went so well is a tribute not only to your own personal dedication and quiet diplomacy but also to the enthusiasm and sustained hard work of your colleagues and staff."

Commending the work done by the officers and staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat before and during the Conference, *Mr. Cornillon* in his letter of 20 April, 1993 to Secretary-General, Lok Sabha said that during the sessions, all the participants were unceasing in their praise for the excellent arrangements which were provided for them and which certainly made a great contribution to the success of the meeting. "This happy situation was the result of the tireless and thorough work of all those, who, under your guidance, showed such dedication and spared no effort in preparing so meticulously for the session", remarked the IPU Secretary-General.

The Ambassador of India in Berne, in his communication of 23 April, 1993 addressed to Director, LARRDIS forwarded a letter from the *Vice-President of the Swiss delegation, Mr. Maximillian Reimann* in which Mr. Reimann had expressed his admiration and gratitude on the excellent organisation made for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference. "Your country has been proved as a very generous host and I am sure that it would have won many new friends from all parts of the world," observed Mr. Reimann.

In his letter of 19 April, 1993 to Director, LARRDIS, *Mr. Robin N. Newmann*, Information Officer of the IPU expressed thanks for all the excellent Press arrangements that were made to ensure the success of the 89th IPU Conference. "The Conference received wide and varied coverage in the Indian Press, with informed stories appearing daily in the local newspapers and for a lot of the week on television and on radio", said Mr. Newmann. He also thanked staff members and the "people working in the Media Centre who were always willing to respond to the various requests...." from the IPU Secretariat.

Shri S.P.K. Gupta, a distinguished Journalist with a long association with the Press Gallery of Lok Sabha for coverage of proceedings of Lok Sabha in his letter of 10 July, 1993 to Director, LARRDIS observed, "Your colleagues can rise to special occasions as we found at the recent IPU session..."

Many Delegates have, in their letters to individual liaison officers were all praise for the excellent work done by them.